



9 Arts
*NECC dancers to perform
in annual Still Point show*



14 Sports
*Red Sox complete three-
game sweep against Yankees*

NECC Observer

Northern Essex
Community College

The Student Newspaper of Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill and Lawrence, Mass.

Be all you can be



Daniel Potocki photo

Anthony Cataldi got to be the strongest man in the world at the Spring Jam. (See story, page 9)

Assistant dean resigns

*Terry Lindgren
leaves after less than
a year at NECC*

BY JONI QUINN
Editor-in-Chief

After less than a year, Terry Lindgren has resigned and served his last day on the administration at Northern Essex Community College on Friday, April 20.

Lindgren was the assistant dean in the divisions of business, mathematics, science and technology and humanities and social sciences for just under a year.

Lindgren was hired for a probationary period of one year in July 2006, according to Sue Grolnic, dean of business, math, science and technology and humanities and social sciences.

"It's a period designed to see what type of fit (the job) is. It is a mildly painless way of the employee saying that maybe there's something better out there for me or the employer saying maybe things didn't

“
**He had a big vision of
what education should
be and where we can go.**

— Sue Grolnic



Courtesy photo

Terry Lindgren

work out quite as we hoped," said Grolnic.

Lindgren holds a doctorate in mathematics from Rutgers University and a master's in education from Lesley University in the Technology in Education program. Prior to NECC he taught both developmental mathematics and mathematics for education majors at Mass Bay Community College.

While at NECC, Grolnic said, one of Lindgren's duties was to oversee the Boston Area Advanced Technological Education Connection (BATEC) partnership. The BATEC is a National Science Foundation fund-

ed project for colleges working with high schools to improve the curriculum for technology students.

"He was really helpful in that so much of our jobs are getting the work assigned to us done and he would think outside that at what we should be doing to improve," said Grolnic. "He had a lot of input on where we should and want to go."

"Having him here was really wonderful. He had a big vision of what education should be and where we can go," said Grolnic.

When reached by phone, Lindgren would not comment on the matter of his resignation.

Haverhill mayor addresses Affairs Club

*Fiorentini discusses
environment and
downtown growth*

BY SARA CODAIR
News Editor

Last Wednesday, Haverhill's Mayor, James J. Fiorentini, visited the contemporary affairs club and gave a talk on urban sprawl and the environmental challenges that a mayor faces.

One of the first things Fiorentini discussed was growth, and the difference between growth and smart growth. Smart growth is controlled growth. More specifically, he wants to develop Haverhill's downtown and preserve the undeveloped land on the outskirts of the city.

According to Fiorentini, developing downtown has environmental benefits. Many of the old buildings that he wants to develop are right near the train station, and he says that by getting people out of their cars and using public transportation, Haverhill will be contributing to the fight against global warming.

Although Fiorentini has a strong

desire for growth in downtown Haverhill, there are obstacles that must first be overcome.

Parking is one. He said, "Free parking is not free. Someone has to pay to maintain it."

Fiorentini said that parking requirements make it impossible to develop some old buildings. He said when the old shoe mills were first built, the workers did not drive, so there were no parking lots.

The official parking requirement for houses of this type are two spaces per unit and according to Fiorentini, to fill that would take up so much space that there would be no room for the actual housing.

"Requiring too much parking makes it impossible to develop factory buildings," Fiorentini said.

Fiorentini said one example of parking requirements ruining a development project is the Ocasio building. He said one time a developer wanted to put high-end condos and restaurants in it; however, he could not get a parking waiver from the

city, and the units in that building are still empty.

He said that Salem and Lynn eliminated parking requirements and has had an increase in development, where Lowell did the opposite, and increased its parking requirements and have lost developers.

However, he said that Haverhill has been approved for a federal grant

“
**My number one thing I want to do is
buy the old rail bed and create trails
and parks along the river ... the minute
it's sold to a developer, that's all over.**

— Mayor Fiorentini

to build a parking garage near Krueger's.

Pollution is the other obstacle that Haverhill faces when it comes to urban growth.

Many of the old factory buildings that the city wants to be developed are polluted. Because of pollution, many owners of old factory buildings were afraid to even get them tested,

to see how polluted they were.

However, according to Fiorentini, the city tested various sites for potential development, and found that they were polluted, but not as polluted as they were expected to be.

Fiorentini also brought up the cost of redoing old factory buildings. He said it could cost up to \$60 million to renovate them. However certain tax laws can bring down the cost. The city will work with the investors to bring that cost down.

Fiorentini does not want to just build in Haverhill; he also wants to preserve it. He said he has an open spaces and recreation task force that is trying to find land to put on a 20-year plan.

"My number one thing I want to do is buy the old rail bed and create trails and parks along the river ... the minute it's sold to a developer, that's all over," Fiorentini said.

To improve the environment, Fiorentini wants to re-establish recycling. He said Haverhill does have a

law requiring that people recycle, but they do not enforce it because they do not know how.

Another way he is trying to improve Haverhill's environment is by planting Valley Forge elm trees, which at one time, lined streets of every major street in Haverhill.

"Five hundred elm trees have been planted since I have been mayor," said Fiorentini. He added that Haverhill is being featured in an award-winning documentary called "Restoring the American Elm." Only three cities were featured in this film: Minneapolis, Washington, D.C. and Haverhill.

Haverhill also won the state's Tree City Award.

After Fiorentini finished his talk, the members of the contemporary affairs club had an opportunity to ask questions.

Professor Steve Slaner asked about affordable housing.

Fiorentini said that 20 percent of the housing is technically considered "affordable." However, affordable only means it's a certain percent lower than the surrounding units. Many people do not consider that affordable. He says his opposition would do away with the affordable housing and have all upscale condos.

Opinion

Student clubs should never be hit by budget

EDITORIAL

Student clubs are an integral part of community college life. They allow students to have a sense of involvement in their school and community. They are a place to make friends and find comfort among others with the same interests. It is these reasons, as well as others, that student clubs should be last on the list when it comes to budget cuts.

Many students feel like outsiders at this time in their life and some clubs, such as the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA), offer these students a sense of belonging. Others look to certain clubs to continue their education outside of the classrooms such as the Contemporary Affairs Club.

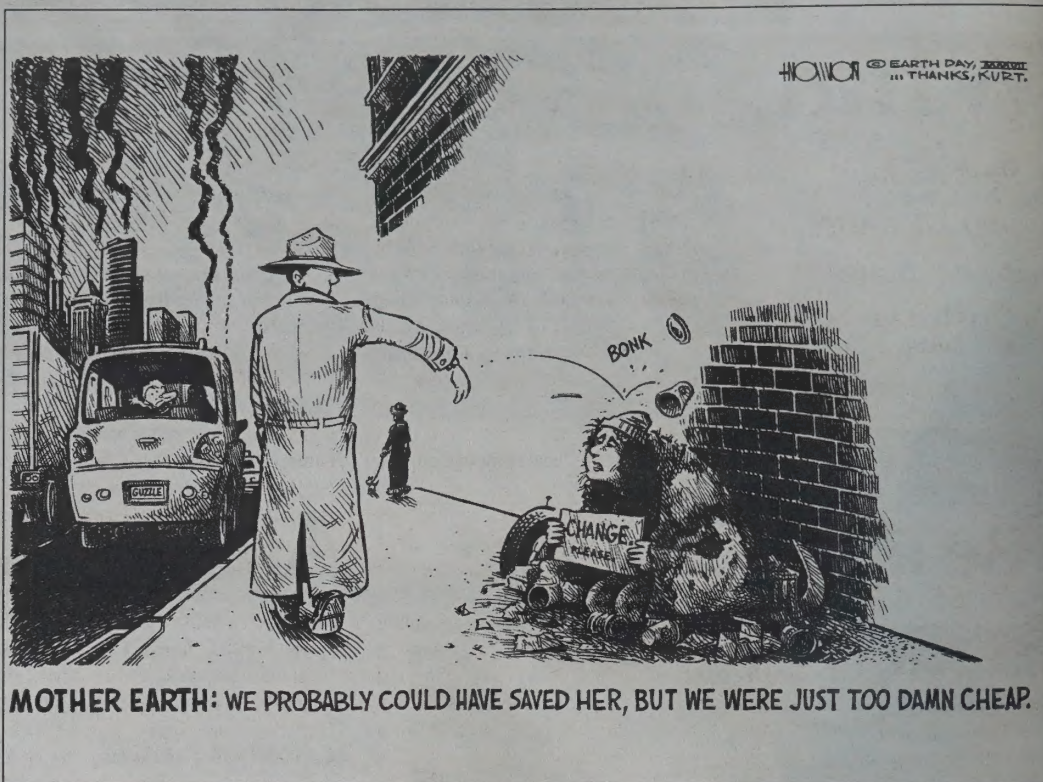
Recently, word has spread throughout the campus communi-

ty that the next place to be hit with budget cuts will be the student clubs and this is an unacceptable act.

Students should be the last to feel the impact of budget cuts in a place some call a second family. To know that the future of these families hang in the balance and to have little control over it is heart-breaking.

Now is the time to band together. No one should have to lose their support system, and for many students, that is what some of these clubs are. All these clubs help those that belong to them and the community as a whole in one way or another. To cut funding will cause students, as well as the community, to suffer.

Dismantling these clubs will be like dismantling the heart of student life on campus.



MOTHER EARTH: WE PROBABLY COULD HAVE SAVED HER, BUT WE WERE JUST TOO DAMN CHEAP.

MCT cartoon

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How to submit a letter to the Observer

The Observer welcomes letters from our readers. Letters for publication may be submitted via email, mail or by dropping off the letter at the newsroom, located in Rm. C-222 in the Spurr building.

All letters must be signed and also include a phone number for verification. Email submissions should include "Letter to Editor" in the subject line or risk not being received by the Observer email system.

We prefer submissions via email:
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*Include "Letter to Editor" in the subject line.

But, if you wish to submit a letter via paper:

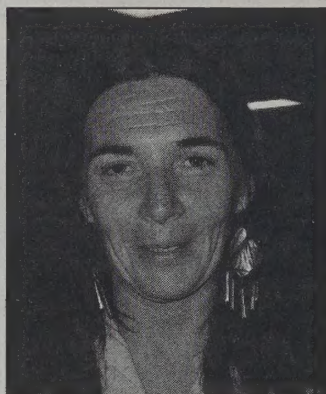
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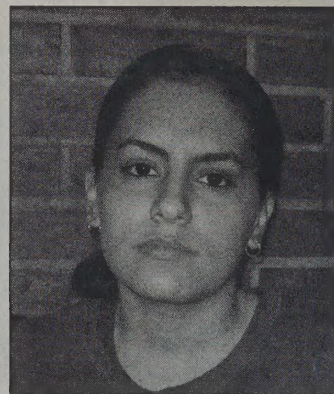
Roaming Reporter

After the Virginia Tech massacre, do you feel safe on campus?



Joan Mullane, Nursing

"At this one, yes. I've been here since 2004. I think students at NECC are supportive of each other, and everyone respects one another. There are no outcasts or labels."



Zamira Cano, Liberal Arts

"Yeah, I feel safe. It doesn't seem like there's anyone that crazy here."



Debbie Salerno, General Studies

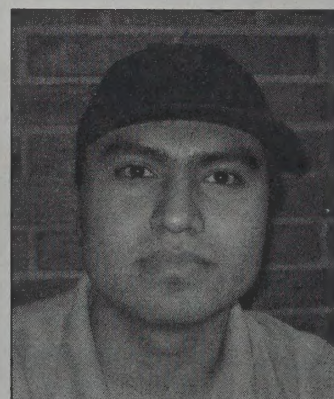
"Yes. I just don't think it will happen here. But if something did, how would they notify us? We're all commuters, how would they let us know if there was trouble?"

Photos/Interviews by Stacie Peters



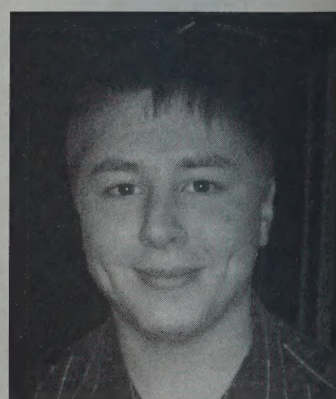
Patty Lavigne, Business

"I'm fine. I believe people out there have mental issues and we aren't those people."



Junior Leal, Accounting

"At this campus, I feel totally secure. I would probably try to be friendly to suspicious people."



Mickey Voss, General Studies

"Yes."

Opinion

What drives a person to kill?

A look at the supposed causes of mass shootings

BY STACIE PETERS
Opinion Editor



I've seen the ruins of the Oklahoma City Bombing, and watched firemen cradle the remnants of dead babies. In 2001, I sat in my library and watched two hijacked planes smash into the World Trade Center, one right after the other.

But out of all these tragedies, though they may have been worse and more violent, and though each was as senseless as the next, be it accident or intentional; out of all these tragedies I've seen, it is the slaying of 33 innocent individuals at Virginia Tech by Seung-Hui Cho that leaves me with the most questions.

What drives a person to kill? Is it the overexposure to the violence in media? Is it the fault of the parents? Is it the lax gun control laws? The inability to deal with one's rage? Or is it a mental illness, plain and simple? And how, oh God, how do we know who is on the brink of snapping?

The Columbine shootings were committed when I was a sophomore in high school. And while it resonated with me, at the same time, it didn't scare me. I didn't question why, because in my mind, both of the shooters were young and impressionable, and had been mentally unstable and exposed to far too much violence in movies, music, and video games, and furthermore, were unable to distinguish between violence and reality. Secondly, while many networks blamed the media solely for the teens' actions, my blame immediately went to the parents – where the hell were they when the teens needed them most?

While the Virginia Tech massacre shares many similarities with the events at Columbine, there is one important difference: the shooter was a 23-year-old man. He was described as intelligent, who graduated from an honors high school. He had parents from South Korea, who left the country to make a better life for Cho and for his sister, who is a graduate of Princeton University. He was quiet, and though he was a target for bullying, it sounded as if most people left him alone. Was that enough for him to snap? Was it the pressure of living up to a Princeton graduate sibling, or was it that people didn't even care enough about him to make his life a living hell?

Here are some popular theories as to what influences a school shooter, and what eventually causes them to snap. I have my own opinion on each one, but there is no answer as to which are right or wrong.

1. Violence in the media. Quite possibly the biggest cop-out of the "this is why people kill each other" theory. Concerned parents and the media were quick to jump to this conclusion during the Columbine shootings. To me, I think it's less about the violence, and more about the inability to define a violent fantasy to a real-life situation. In a movie, you beat someone up, and you're a hero. In real life, if you beat someone up, even if it was because they were doing something wrong, you at the very least get arrested by the police. Parents talk about the violence in video games, such as "Grand Theft Auto," but did violence in games inspire street violence, or did violence in the street inspire video game violence? Violence has existed long before movies did, and in more explicit terms.

2. Lack of parental involvement. One thing that makes Cho so scary is that he was too old to be guarded like a child, and too young for the media to not inquire about the parents' relationship with Cho. It wasn't like with Columbine's Harris and Klebold, who were essentially children. From what I can tell, Cho was born to rather poor parents in South Korea, who moved to America to create a better life for their family. Cho's sister is a Princeton graduate. Cho rails against the rich in the self-made videos he sent to NBC. What he should have realized was that though he and his sister may have been victims of circumstance, the best

revenge, as people say, is living well. It's unfortunate he couldn't take a key from his sister and follow in her footsteps.

3. Lack of gun control. Certain people are saying that if everyone in the classrooms Cho entered carried guns as well, they would be alive. What a horrible, disgusting argument. Let's arm a bunch of untrained students to shoot at one in another in the name of self-defense. I believe gun control laws need to much stricter, though I do not feel the need to full-out ban guns. More importantly, anyone who has spent time in and out of mental institutions should not be carrying a gun. Why? Look at No. 3 ...

4. Mental illness. I attribute this to murder the most, out of anything. When Charles Whitman, the University of Texas shooter, was autopsied, after murdering his wife and mother and then shooting 16 campus-goers, they discovered a large brain tumor pushing into his hypothalamus. We call people like Cho, Harris, and Klebold "crazy" and sadly, perhaps this is the truth.

We may never know what causes an average person to snap. But there is one thing for sure: we need to pay attention to know when it does. I was never a fan of shock-rocker Marilyn Manson, but after Columbine, he said one thing that really stuck out to me: when asked what he would say to the Columbine killers, he responded, "I wouldn't say anything. I would listen to them, because nobody else did."

A side note to South Koreans

When I first heard the shooter was Asian, I thought to myself (as a half-Korean) "Please don't be Korean."

But he was. And now reports are flooding in about South Korea's response to the Virginia Tech tragedy. Footage has been shown of public mourning in the streets of Seoul, while South Korea has given a public apology for Cho's actions.

Seung-Hui Cho was born in South Korea, but moved to the United States at the age of 8. He was a resident alien, which essentially means that he was an American without official citizenship.

Many South Koreans are worried about other Koreans becoming the subject of abuse, but I want to offer some assurance: nothing that happened at Virginia Tech was about race. There was no particular race Cho targeted, nor did he speak out against any races in his self-made videos.

At any rate, South Korea shouldn't need to apologize for what happened. In fact, neither does America. Seung-Hui Cho was not a good Korean. He was not a good American. He was not a good human.

So for all those South Koreans who are ready to jump ship and pose as Japanese, be proud of who you are. The fact that you hail from a country that would feel so much pain from one man's actions and holds so much sympathy towards America right now is a country of good, loving people.



Stacie Peters photo

What was originally given to me as a gag gift, has never rung so true.

LETTERS

A goodbye from Sandra DeVellis

To the students of NECC:

Saying goodbye to my life's work and the important people in it is an unwelcome challenge. I would much rather be saying "Hello." But the time has come.

Thank you to all my students. I have learned so much from you. I have looked forward to sharing a classroom with you (almost) every single day for the past 25 years. I have been in awe of your strength and courage in overcoming so many obstacles in getting your education. My parents did not have the opportunity to get an education but they ensured that I did. Your struggles will make a difference for you and others. Pat yourselves on the back, you are doing a good thing going to school.

I love being a teacher. Here is some advice from a teacher who has loved sharing a classroom with so many of you.

Trust us. NECC faculty, staff and administration are here to help you succeed. Use our office hours, ask questions, listen. Tell us what your issues are. You will still be held to academic standards but the truths of your lives will help us serve you and others more effectively.

Work smart. I hope most of you are already working hard. Take advantage of the support available to you. Use the services of the tutoring center, PACE, the Learning Accommodations Center, Women's Network. Enroll in the Student Success course, go to the workshops and learn how to take notes and improve your study skills. Take a Learning Community and learn from your peers. Your time will be well spent.

Take care of each other. Make a contact with someone in each of your classes. Offer to share your notes if they have been absent. Remind each other of due dates. Get to know someone you wouldn't ordinarily socialize with. It is up to you to help establish a real community here at Northern Essex. It will make the college experience richer for all.

Although I haven't thanked all of you individually please accept this group thank you for all you have given me. You have a place in my heart forever.

Sincerely,
Sandra DeVellis
Professor, Behavioral Science

QUOTES

"Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent."

— Isaac Asimov

"Victory attained by violence is tantamount to a defeat, for it is momentary."

— Mahatma Gandhi

"Opinions founded on prejudice are always sustained with the greatest of violence."

— Francis Jeffrey

"Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable."

— John F. Kennedy

"Perseverance is more prevailing than violence; and many things which cannot be overcome when they are together, yield themselves up when taken little by little."

— Plutarch

Opinion

'Yeah, I know Hazel Mae'

My journey into the world of sports broadcasting

By TOM DiZAZZO
Contributing Reporter



I accelerate as I tighten my belt. My rear view mirror works as good as any while I straighten my tie and adjust the collar. The stop-and-go traffic ahead doesn't

take the smile off my face because, today my friends, is my interview to become an intern at New England Sports Network, commonly known as NESN.

When I applied for the internship I thought I had no chance coming out of Northern Essex. Then I got the e-mail asking when the best time for me to come in for an interview was. Even though it was 2 a.m. when I read the e-mail, I was ready to throw on some kicks and be there within the hour. All of a sudden I was 9 again, staring into my pillowcase full of Halloween candy at the end of the night. Even this is an under-exaggeration of just how excited I was for this opportunity.

I take a right on to Arsenal Street and pull up to this massive and gorgeous building my usual 17 minutes early. They don't call me Mrs. Punctuality for nothing. (Actually,

now that I think of it, I should correct them next time they even refer to me as a "Mrs." But I digress.)

I half-jog through the parking lot and pull on the handle to open the door to my future. I take a step inside and give the receptionist my name and a smile. She returns the smile, and I nod and look away then down to suddenly realize my jeans zipper couldn't possibly be any closer to my shoes.

I zip it up and notice a man walking down the hallway toward me. He outstretches his hand and I return the favor. He introduces himself as Tom Glennon, the producer of the Boston Bruins pre-game/post-game show. Nervous as hell, I follow him back to his desk. When I psychologically prepared for this interview all week I continued to convince myself that I wouldn't get nervous.

It didn't work.

Later, I walk alongside him as he gives me a tour of this gigantic building, a walk that felt like a marathon. He shows me the sound room next to the studio, which was next to the editing stations, which were next to the newsroom, which was next to the break room. The break room was where the coffee was, which officially made it the "Where I Will Be Living for a While" room. Even though I knew coming into this opportunity that I would be retrieving coffee and getting water for everyone and their brother, it honestly didn't bother me one bit.

As we turned the corner, in the distance I could see Jerry Remy. I couldn't believe it. I had seen and listened to this man basically every night and day game for as long as I

can remember. Here he was, and I was about to meet him.

He came closer and began to pass us.

"Hey Tom," he said with a smile. At the same second Tom and I both say, "Hey Jerry."

Embarrassing? I guess you could call it that. I would rather you just refer to it as, "somebody quickly find me a place to hide." Though, he was cool about it. They both laughed which made me laugh, and then I introduced myself to the Rem-dawg. He told me to just call him Jerry, though I refused.

After that encounter, we went back to Glennon's desk. I filled out a bunch of paperwork, and just like that I was an intern at NESN. The very NESN I tuned in to watch every Sox game for the last 21 years basically.

The phrase "Dream come true" doesn't suffice.

Five months later, after finishing up my internship, I realized that I had learned a lot. I worked for free and worked a lot longer days than I would have liked. I made a thousand cups of coffee, and was sent on endless journeys to stores miles away for bottles of water. I was surprised I didn't have to clean toilets. Though, I would have. But with it came experiences, and hopefully further opportunities, and a bunch of funny memories.

During the five months I was an intern at NESN, Hazel Mae may have said five words to me. All "hellos" and all in different months. But they were words, nonetheless.

One time, I was giving a tour to a new intern from Boston University. I already felt like a big shot, because I wasn't the "new intern" anymore.



NESN photo

Yes, I have brought this woman coffee.

Someone actually worked under me. I gave him a tour and around the corner was Hazel Mae.

She stopped and locked eyes with me.

"Hey Tom, how is the internship going?" she asked.

"Great, I am actually all finished up. I am just giving him a tour," I responded.

"That's awesome! Did you have a good time?"

"Of course, I got to meet people like you."

"That's nice of you to say, well

have a good day."

"You too Hazel."

She walked away and the kid looked at me in amazement because he couldn't believe I knew Hazel Mae. To be honest, I couldn't believe I knew Hazel Mae. I couldn't believe she knew I wasn't a bum begging for change, let alone remembered my name. He told me how he couldn't wait to tell his friends at school. I just looked at him, shrugged my shoulders, played it cool and said, "Yeah, I know Hazel Mae, working here you meet all kinds of people."

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Opinion

You could earn up to \$50,000 for school ...

... but the Army's misleading campaign is up to no good

BY MARK PALERMO
Contributing Reporter

Recently at the Lawrence campus, I picked up a U.S. Army brochure and browsed through it. It made a generous offer to potential enlistees. It said that the military will give you (based on qualifications) up to \$50,000 toward your education, plus a sign-up bonus of up to \$20,000.

The key words here are "up to." While the claim is technically and legally true, the words "up to" render the statement meaningless. I can promise you, for example, that I will pay you "up to" \$5,000 to paint my house. If you take the job on and I pay you \$1,200 after you finish, I have kept my promise and you have no legal recourse to a claim against me. "Up to" \$5,000 usually means below \$5,000. It can even mean zero, and when it comes to the military's promise of money for school, it often does.

While military recruiters are not breaking the law by engaging NECC students, some say they use high pres-

sure to get you to enlist. Or make promises that they can't keep. And the carefully worded language of the military's promotional materials can obscure some facts worth noting. For example, very few recruits receive the maximum college benefit of \$50,000. 57 percent of all recruits get no benefits at all, and 23 percent receive only half the benefits.

To earn the \$50,000 that the military advertises, you must qualify for the Army/Navy College Fund. To do this you have to place in the top half of the military entry examinations, which means of course that 50 percent of all applicants are eliminated at once. If you score in the top 50 percent, in order to get the \$50,000, you must be willing to enter a designated job specialty that almost nobody else wants.

If you don't make the cut for the Army/Navy College Fund, there is still the Montgomery GI Bill that you may qualify for. The maximum benefit you get under the Montgomery GI Bill is \$36,000, but the military attaches strings to this money too. For example, in order to qualify for the full amount, you are required to pay a \$1,200 deposit to the military, and if you leave the military early for any reason (as 1 in 3 do) or get a less-than-honorable discharge (as 1 in 5 do) or

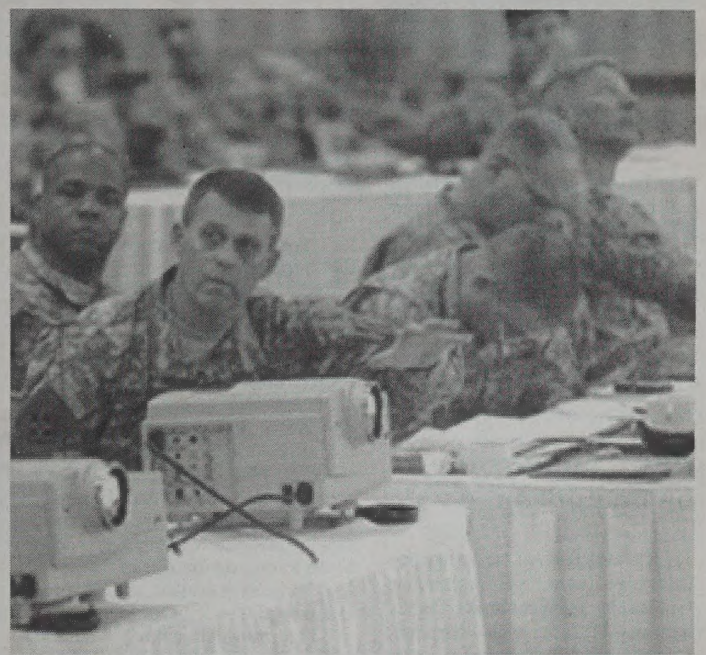
decide later not to go to college, the military gets to keep your deposit. Incredibly, the \$36,000 they promise you includes your own deposit money, so the real amount is not \$36,000, but \$34,800.

The benefits – if after all this you finally manage to qualify for them – are paid in 36 monthly installments spread out over four years; you cannot receive larger payments over a shorter period of time. And you must continue college for four consecutive years without interruption, which some people are unable to do.

At UMass Amherst, students pay \$7,400 in fees and \$6,200 for room and board. Figure about \$2,000 for books and miscellaneous expenses and you are looking at a yearly bill of \$15,600 – of which the Montgomery GI Bill will cover about \$9,000, a bit more if you are married.

If you go to a two-year college, you will receive only half of the money you are qualified for. Since 53 percent of veterans attend two-year community colleges, the military only pays half of the earned benefit. Remember too that military benefits are usually given *instead* of (not in *addition* to) other forms of financial aid that you might otherwise have qualified for.

With so many curves in the road



U.S. Army photo

Getting the Army to pay for your education may be more frustrating than you imagined.

and hoops to jump through, it is no wonder only about 16 percent of veterans ever get a four-year college diploma.

Mark Palermo is an NECC Faculty Member.

'Hey, I can't make it to class today because...'

Fifteen perfectly good reasons for missing class yesterday

BY M. ROBITAILLE
Contributing Reporter



All right, so you skipped class yesterday to attend the first day of Metalfest. Where you come from, that's not a crime. But come Monday you're going to need an

excuse for your absence if you don't want to fail, but what?

... Of course! Excessive neurosis is such an underused avenue! You need something original after all! You can't keep killing off fake relatives; the bad karma is really starting to accumulate!

So not to worry, you've got your handy list of chronic neuroses to help you out. The following is a list of 15 embarrassing (yet highly effective) mental "quirks," if you will, that can be used as a means to excuse yourself from class when you really can't afford an absence. Enjoy.

1. CHRONOMENTROPHO-

BIA: You wanted to be there, but class begins right at 9 a.m. and you just couldn't bring yourself to check the time. If only you could have conquered your horrible fear of clocks.

2. PHRONEMOPHOBIA: Because thinking is just so terrifying that you couldn't bring yourself to do it today.

3. SCOPHOBIA: It's simply too difficult to concentrate on learning when you just know that everyone in class is secretly staring at you.

4. CATHISOPHOBIA: It's really the school's fault. Every class you signed up for requires you to sit down, and that is a risk you are just not willing to take.

5. HIPPOPOTOMON-STROESQUIPPEDALIOPHOBIA: Chances are they wouldn't be very good teachers if they spoke in nothing but monosyllables; but does every sentence have to contain such terrifying multi-syllabic monsters?!

6. METROPHOBIA: "I don't care if this is a literature class! Poetry has no place here or anywhere else!" Sadly the outbursts would only get worse.

7. XENOGLOSSOPHOBIA: Because you just never know when your textbooks will contain references to French, or German ... or Finnish. Stupid world history cours-

es.

8. ZEMMIPHOBIA: Because he could be anywhere. That all powerful mole rat is really killing your thirst for knowledge, not to mention how socially awkward it was when you thought he was posing as your blind date last week.

9. GLAZOMANIA: You very nearly made it to class – your morning bi-daily inventory of the things in your home only took six hours this morning. But after realizing you had added an item to the inventory of "things I keep in my car" and had not written it down ... well. It was obvious you weren't going to make it.

10. CLINOMANIA: Because when you say you just couldn't bring yourself to get out of bed that morning, you really, really mean it.

11. KLAZOMANIA: It's loud enough at school already with all the students who haven't been diagnosed yet.

12. MISOMANIA: Learning is much too time-consuming an effort. Why, hating everything is really like a full-time job; a job that doesn't require paperwork. Because you really hate that.

13. NETOMANIA: Damn you, "World of Warcraft"!

14. COPROLALOMANIA: You would have been to class if only your dad hadn't picked up "The Sopranos" on DVD. So many obscenities, so little time.

15. RHINOTILLEXOMANIA: And just when you thought you'd found the perfect cover with that whole "I'm fixing my nose ring" excuse... it would have helped if you actually had a nose ring. Now everybody knows.

There you have it, 15 of the most perfect excuses, stemming from mental problems you can't control and that most people have never heard of... to get you out of class!

WARNING: DO NOT USE THESE ON YOUR PSYCHOLOGY TEACHER.

Music seems to be about image, not talent

'Artists' such as the Pussycat Dolls show how obsessed we are with image

BY ALLISON C. BOISSONEAU
Contributing Reporter

Music was once a cherished and beloved art form adored by humans all over. Music once held the ability to express a range of emotions through one simple song. But now, the art form of music has been heavily corrupted. Music is defined as a pleasing sound. It is not the case anymore.

Today when we turn on the television, we witness that today's music stars are more about sex appeal and imagery than the actual sound itself. Pop stars such as The Pussycat Dolls gyrate on stage, but are rarely complimented for their tunes.

It seems as though today's music is solely about image now. Music has hit an all-time low. Gwen Stefani's "Wind It Up" is composed of a clashing cacophony of sound, but because the vocalist is so popular and well-known, people still buy the album. Critics lambasted the song but it rose to the top 40 on billboard charts.

It seems as if a music video is composed of lush imagery and special effects, the song will become popular instantly regardless of the sound. A great example of this is Avril Lavigne's song "Girlfriend." The video debuted before the actual song. The video became renowned and well-liked, but the song itself is

mediocre and consists of Avril yelling and using slang terms such as "She is like, so whatever!" repeatedly. Yet Ms. Lavigne has made a large comeback because everyone enjoyed watching the video.

On "American Idol," the most well-liked and popular contestants seem to be the most physically attractive. Carrie Underwood was not considered physically unattractive by any definition. Yet one of the American Idol winners Ruben Studdard went largely ignored. This is ironic in itself because Ruben was largely commended for his singing by the judges several times.

Paris Hilton has even jumped on the bandwagon and launched her own music career. The reception to her was poor. Underground musician Danger Mouse replaced over 500 of Ms. Hilton's debut album in stores in the United Kingdom with fake CDs that had Hilton topless plastered on the cover. The song titles on the back were changed to titles such as "Why am I famous?" and "What have I done?"

The real question is why are we even buying her album?

Once again, this is purely my humble opinion. I firmly believe that image is the ultimate factor for the success of musicians today. Rarely do you see a physically unattractive singer on the top charts today. Music is not about a "pleasing sound" anymore. It seems to be about opulent, lavish music videos with amazing CGI special effects or gyrating, scantily clad, ridiculously thin pop singers.

There is nothing wrong with liking nubile pop stars, but do not let that become the ultimate factor in deciding whether you enjoy the music itself.

We want to hear from you.

Send letters or opinion columns to the NECC Observer:

observer@necc.mass.edu

Include "Opinion Editor" in subject line.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Poetry Reading

The spring Parnassus reading will be held Monday, May 7 from noon to 1 p.m. in Lecture Hall A. Students and faculty may come to listen, or to read their fiction or poetry. There will be free food and drink. For more information, e-mail Patrick Lochelt at PLochelt@necc.mass.edu.

NECC Instructor being published

Richard Padova, instructor in the History, Government, Philosophy and Economics Dept., has completed the manuscript for his book detailing his experiences in the New Hampshire presidential primary from 1980 to 2004. It is now in the design and layout stage and is scheduled to be printed in paperback next month.

Padova will begin promoting the book at public events once it is printed, and it will be available for purchase this summer. A public event will be planned here on campus once the fall semester begins, where students may buy the book at half price. Only 250 copies will be printed and each one will be numbered and signed by the author.

Shakespeare to be performed at NECC

Northern Essex Community College's Life Long Learning Program presents Shakespeare's Greatest Hits, Thursday, April 26 from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Technology Center on the Haverhill Campus.

Richard Clark from Boylston, Mass. will entertain with his one-man plays. Clark will depict 12 different characters and 25 monologues and soliloquies from Shakespeare's most famous plays.

Light refreshments will be served. Admission is \$1.

For additional information contact Charlene Boucher, Life Long Learning Program Coordinator at 978-556-3825 or cboucher@necc.mass.edu.

Quick Byte Cafe open more hours

The Quick Byte cafe will be open Monday, April 30 through Thursday, May 3 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. This is a trial. If this trial is successful, the food service committee will consider continuing it in the fall.

Please note that the regular scheduled hours of Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. stay in effect.

Does your campus organization or office have something to announce in Campus Briefs? Please e-mail information to observer@necc.mass.edu. Be sure to include "campus news brief" in the subject line.

Nature seen through the eyes of Ansel Adams

BY ANDREW WAHL
Staff Writer

You don't have to go far to see the intricate or majestic beauty of nature. In fact, wherever you are, reading this article, take a few minutes out of your busy life and go out back of whatever building you may be in and find a nice little spot to sit down and read the rest of this. Maybe you could find one of the benches behind C Building. Or one of those randomly placed Adirondack chairs in front of the library and B and E Buildings, you know the ones overlooking that grassy hill that runs down to the thicket on the side of the pond? Just find a spot outside and sit. Look around and take it all in.

You may be asking yourself, "What is this guy talking about? 'Take it all in?' We're in Haverhill, Massachusetts, right off of I-495." Yes, we are indeed. And while our beautiful campus may not be exactly situated in the deep woods or a majestic mountain range, there is plenty of nature around us to inspire. From a patch of grass to a forest of trees, if you take the time, you will see it.

With the right eye, you can find beauty in just about anything. Especially if what you're looking at is nature. You don't necessarily have to be in the deep woods of the Amazon, or perched atop a mountain that makes the Seven-Summit list to appreciate all that nature has to offer in its plethora of forms. You can see it right here on campus.

And if on Wednesday, April 4, you happened to take the time to check out Professor Lance Hidy's lecture in the Tech Center at noon, you had the opportunity to peek in on the awesome views of the power and beauty of nature from the eye of one man, manifested through his camera lens. Through the eye of world-renowned photographer Ansel Adams, who Hidy worked with as the art director for the 1979 publication of Adams' book "Yosemite and the Range of Light."

As a part of the NECC Green Weeks, Hidy's presentation – his first in his eight years here as a professor –

focused on the career of Adams as an environmentalist. And apparently Adams was quite the environmentalist. The pictures shown were all awe-inspiring. It was nature in its undeniable raw glory and majesty.

"He started taking pictures at a very young age," Hidy said of Adams.

He went on to show a head-on sepia-colored photo of a young Adams hiking up a forest hillside with a pack burro in tow. Standing in front of the audience, half-turned toward the screen, he looked up at the picture was projected, and said, "You can get sense of the joy from his body language." And I think the audience could get a sense of Hidy's joy from his body language.

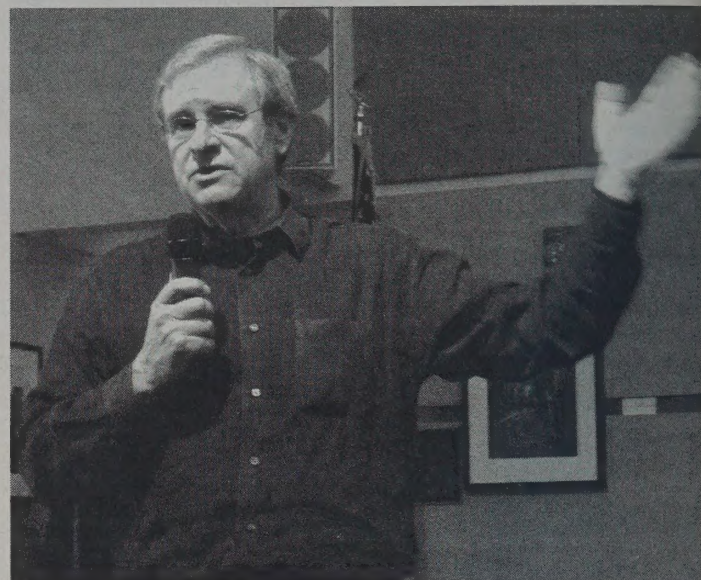
Hidy followed his summary of the picture up by saying that for Adams, "the outdoors was his college, his university."

The next picture was a photograph of people sitting around a campfire at night. Someone was standing, playing a violin or fiddle. The glow of the fire was the only source of light in the photo. It cast a yellow glow just strong enough to illuminate the people around the fire and the violinist. Hidy held his hand out to his side and cocked his head up towards the screen and then back to the audience and commented on the photo, saying, "It gives you a feeling of the culture and community he helped create of outdoor enthusiasts."

While "Yosemite and the Range of Light" may have been the last book published before Adams died, his work lives on, and continues to inspire. Hidy, with a new book due out October 2007 titled "Ansel Adams: 400 Photographs," said "Ansel's message about the importance of the natural world is more relevant than ever, with global warming looming as a threat."

"I hope this book inspires its readers to follow Ansel's example – to throw themselves wholeheartedly into causes they believe in."

As a message to fellow artists, Hidy said that one of the most important things he learned from Adams is that "some things are more important than money. Don't make compromises either on your principles, or the



Andrew Wahl photo

Professor Lance Hidy speaks about working with world-renowned photographer Ansel Adams.

technical and artistic methods you use. Treat every project as though it is the most important of your career."

But Ansel Adams was not just an artist's artist – rather, an artist for everyone. Hidy explained that "Ansel is one of those rare artists whose work is acclaimed by both the artistic establishment and the public. This book will be the largest assembly of his images in one place, organized chronologically to trace the thematic and technical development of his artistry, so I expect it will stand next to his wonderful autobiography as a standard reference on his career."

Adams was easily accessible. In response to a question from an audience member, Hidy related an anecdote from his three days spent with Adams and his wife in Carmel, Calif., when he was working with Adams on the 1978 book, "Yosemite and the Range of Light." The question was something like, "What kind of person was Adams?" Hidy told a story about how one afternoon he, Adams and his

wife, were just sitting down to lunch when the phone rang.

Adams' wife had just prepared an artichoke lunch. "It was artichoke season," Hidy recalled, "and the phone rang. It was for Ansel. He got up and disappeared for almost 45 minutes." When he came back and sat down, he said that it was a guy who had a question about some photography tips he talked about in a book that Adams had written. Hidy said, "He missed lunch to talk to a stranger on the phone to help him out. That was Ansel."

"He was never pushy. He was a really wonderful man. He had a personality that was just magnetic," Hidy recalled of Adams.

So, if you took the advice from the beginning of this article, and found one of those peaceful places to sit and read this, you might find that those "random Adirondack chairs" in front of the library, at the top of the grassy hill overlooking the thicket and pond, just might not be so random after all.

Computers provide insight

BY ADAM GELLEGER AND
CHRIS KAHN
Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Computer forensics are playing a key role in the probe of the Virginia Tech gunman, with investigators revealing he bought ammunition clips on eBay designed for one of two handguns used to kill 32 people and himself.

The eBay account and other Internet activities provided insight Saturday into how Seung-Hui Cho may have plotted for the rampage, including the purchase of two empty ammo clips about three weeks before the attack.

eBay spokesman Hani Durzy said the purchase of the clips from a Web vendor based in Idaho was legal and that the company has cooperated with authorities. Attempts to reach the Idaho dealer were unsuccessful.

"Within 24 hours, after Cho's identity was made public, we had reached out to law enforcement to offer our assistance in any investigation," Durzy said.

Authorities are also examining the personal computers found in Cho's

dorm room and seeking his cell-phone records.

Cho, 23, also used the eBay account to sell items ranging from Hokies football tickets to horror-themed books, some of which were assigned in one of his classes.

A search warrant affidavit filed Friday stated that investigators wanted to search Cho's e-mail accounts, including the address Blazers5505@hotmail.com. Durzy confirmed Cho used the same blazers5505 handle on eBay.

Virginia State Police spokeswoman Corinne Geller said investigators are "aware of the eBay activity that mirrors" the Hotmail account.

One question investigators hope to answer is whether Cho had any e-mail contact with Emily Hilscher, one of the first two victims. Investigators plan to search her Virginia Tech e-mail account.

Experts say that when the subject of an investigation is a loner like Cho, his computers and cell phone can be a rich source of information. Authorities say Cho had a history of sending menacing text messages and other communications – written and electronic.

On March 22, Cho bought two 10-round magazines for the Walther P22. A day later, he made a purchase from a vendor named "oneclickshooting," which sells gun accessories and other items. Details on the purchase were unclear, and the seller could not be reached for comment.

Cho sold tickets to Virginia Tech sporting events, including last year's Peach Bowl. He sold a Texas Instruments graphics calculator that contained several games, most of them with mild themes.

"The calculator was used for less than one semester then I dropped the class," Cho wrote on the site.

He also sold many books about violence, death and mayhem. Several of those books were used in his English classes, meaning Cho simply could have been selling used books at the end of the semester.

Andy Koch, Cho's roommate from 2005-06, said he never saw Cho receive or send a package, although he didn't have much interaction with the shooter.

Cho sold the books on the eBay-affiliated site half.com. They include "Men, Women, and Chainsaws" by Carol J. Clover, "The Best of H.P.

Lovecraft: Bloodcurdling Tales of Horror and the Macabre"; and "The Female of the Species: Tales of Mystery and Suspense" by Joyce Carol Oates – a book in which the publisher writes: "In these and other gripping and disturbing tales, women are confronted by the evil around them and surprised by the evil they find within themselves."

Books by those three authors were taught in his Contemporary Horror class.

Experts say things like eBay transactions can be hugely valuable in trying to figure out the motivation behind crimes.

An examination of a computer is "very revealing, particularly for a person like this," said Mark Rasch of FTI Consulting, a computer and electronic investigation firm. "What we find ... particularly with people who are very uncommunicative in person, is that they may be much more communicative and free to express themselves with the anonymity that computers and the Internet give you."

Cho's computer could hold a record of just about anything he has done, even of activities or communications he may have tried to erase.

News

National News



Compiled by the Observer staff
from AP wire reports

Mass. state lawmakers debate budget

BOSTON (AP) – House lawmakers will begin debating their version of the state budget Monday after discarding some of Gov. Deval Patrick's key proposals, such as providing money to hire 250 new police officers and closing so-called business tax loopholes.

The House's \$26.7 billion budget also includes earmarked appropriations for specific programs. Patrick's budget largely avoided earmarks, preferring block funding to give his department.

Both the governor's and the House spending plans reach into the state's so-called rainy day fund, with the House reaching a bit deeper to close what its budget experts project is an \$800 million revenue shortfall.

House Speaker Salvatore DiMasi, D-Boston, has been adamant about eliminating Patrick's proposal to generate revenue by closing what the governor calls business tax loopholes. DiMasi calls Patrick's plan a tax hike and believes the timing is inappropriate.

Attorney General being called to resign by fellow lawmakers

WASHINGTON (AP) – Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has hurt the Bush administration and the Justice Department with his poor handling of the firing of eight federal prosecutors, a leading Republican said Sunday.

Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Gonzales was certainly undermining himself and his agency's law enforcement efforts.

"The attorney general's testimony was very, very damaging to his own credibility. It has been damaging to the administration," Specter said of Gonzales' appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee this past week. "No doubt, it is bad for the Department of Justice. It is harmful. There has been a very substantial decrease in morale."

But Specter stopped short of adding his name to the growing ranks of lawmakers, both Democrat and Republican, calling on Gonzales to resign.

"I don't challenge anybody else who wants to do it," Specter said. "My own mindset is to leave it up to the attorney general and the president."

Despite the criticism, Gonzales gave no indication Sunday he might soon resign. Gonzales remains focused on guarding against terrorism and keeping kids and communities safe, said Brian Roehrkasse, a spokesman for the department.

Students learn about local effects of global warming

Dr. Steve Nodvin speaks to college community

BY STEPHANIE NAPOLITANO
Contributing Reporter

Dr. Steve Nodvin of the Climate Project gave a lecture on Wednesday April 18 concerning global warming and the major effects taking place globally, but especially in the Northeast.

The topic was seemingly fitting considering the recent flooding in surrounding areas, such as Lowell

and Lawrence. Nodvin said during his lecture in the Haverhill E Building that the recent storms this week fit the global warming trend.

He also went on to say the United States is the largest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world, and the Northeast plays a large part in that.

Nodvin also spoke on the use of fossil fuels. He told the audience it took the earth 200-300 million years to create all the fossil fuels that humans will consume in less than 1,000 years. He said, "Fossil fuels are a gift to humankind; they've allowed tremendous advances in technology, agriculture, health care,

major one is that they put more carbon dioxide in the air. He used the analogy of the greenhouse gases acting like a blanket covering the earth, and the more CO2 there is, the more blankets there are to trap heat in the atmosphere.

In the past two weeks the students of Northern Essex have learned a lot of new ways to contribute to stop global warming, and there is more they can do to help.

Northern Essex is a commuter's school, so students could find a fellow classmate to carpool to school with. Sharing a ride with someone just two days a week reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 1,590 pounds per year.

Another transportation idea that will help is to make sure your car is tuned up. Keeping your car up to date helps improve fuel efficiency and reduce emissions.

Fossil fuels are a gift to humankind; they've allowed tremendous advances ...

– Dr. Steve Nodvin

and etc. during the past 150 years."

He then explained that although fossil fuels are a great advancement, there are downsides to the usage. A

English students win awards for their outstanding essays

\$11,000 in scholarship money to be given away

BY SARA CODAIR
News Editor

Writing awards will be given to many of the English Comp 1 and 2 students here at Northern Essex on Friday, May 4 at noon in TC-103.

The awards include scholarship money, Barnes and Noble gift cards and a Dell laptop computer. This year, according to English Professor Linda Desjardins, the coordinator of the awards program, they have \$11,000 to divide among the winners.

The recipients of the awards are nominated by instructors and chosen by a committee. Desjardins said "If an instructor sees a paper that is a cut above, or exceptional-

ly good, they can ask the student for permission to submit it."

The ceremony will consist of the giving of the individual awards, readings of the top essays and light snacks.

"When it comes to the ceremony, you can see the pride on their faces – they are so proud of themselves without being showy," said Desjardins.

She said that sometimes they bring family, and the parents are very proud. She said it is a lot of

work, but the impact it has on the students makes it worth it. "It's just a feel good experience," said Desjardins.

The awards ceremony is open to the entire Northern Essex community. Desjardins said, "Some faculty go to hear essays because they are so fantastic."

She thinks it's a great experience, and said, "It's one of the things that Northern Essex does right, recognizing their students' achievements."

When it comes to the ceremony, you can see the pride on their faces.

– Prof. Linda Desjardins

High water in elevator causes mechanical alarm to sound



Security Log

With the help of Eagle Security, this security log has been released to inform students and staff about the incidents requiring the assistance of Eagle Security at the NECC campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence. This log covers events on the Lawrence campus from Mar. 1, 2007 to Mar. 26, 2007 and the events on the Haverhill campus from Mar. 1, 2007 to Mar. 26, 2007.

Haverhill campus

April 6, 2007 – A fire alarm was hit by accident in the B Building at 4:15 p.m. In an unrelated incident, there was a car accident in lot No. 2 at 4:20 p.m. Two students were involved. No injuries were reported.

April 13, 2007 – A student was pushed in the B Building by another student at 3 p.m. The incident was referred to Dean Nita Lamborghini.

Lawrence campus

April 17, 2007 – The skylight at the stairwell on the second floor by room 251 was leaking. A bucket was placed under it. In an unrelated inci-

dent, strong winds knocked a side panel off the building by the dumpster in the rear parking lot.

April 18, 2007 – High water was reported in the elevator pit. Stanley Elevator Company was on site at 4:45 p.m. to remove water. Recommended to repair concrete around drain-pipe in pit.

April 19, 2007 – A winter coat was claimed by a student from the lost and found. In an unrelated incident, the mechanical alarm sounded due to high water in the elevator.

All of the information compiled in this log by Arts & Entertainment Editor Jasmin Pastrana and Editor-in-Chief Joni Quinn.

World News



Compiled by the Observer staff
from AP wire reports

Avalanche triggers 26-foot wave

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) – Rescuers found the bodies of three people Sunday who were swept out to sea by huge waves when a powerful earthquake sent avalanches crashing into a fjord in southern Chile. Seven others were missing.

While there was no tsunami, Saturday's 6.2-magnitude earthquake apparently caused masses of rock and earth to plunge from surrounding hills into the narrow inlet, creating 8-meter (26-foot) waves.

The roaring, white-capped water destroyed boats, uprooted trees and overwhelmed beachgoers. Police Maj. Claudio Escobar said the search would continue until the seven missing people had been located.

Meanwhile, President Michele Bachelet arrived Sunday and was met by protests from angry residents who say the government has been slow to offer assistance following several months of seismic activity in the region.

Venezuelans protest the closing of privately owned TV station

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) – Venezuelans marched Saturday amid heavy security in the opposition's largest show of support yet for a television station targeted by President Hugo Chavez, whom they accuse of suppressing freedom of speech and democratic rights.

Thousands of people turned out for the protest against Chavez's decision to remove Radio Caracas Television, or RCTV, the country's oldest private TV station, from the airwaves.

Hundreds of Chavez supporters in red caps and T-shirts mounted a rival gathering nearby backing the government's decision not to renew the license of RCTV, which they accuse of backing a 2002 coup that briefly ousted Chavez.

Iraqi prime minister rejects wall

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) – Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said Sunday that he has ordered a halt to the construction of a barrier that would separate a Sunni enclave from surrounding Shiite areas in Baghdad.

The U.S. military announced last week that it was building a large concrete wall in the northern Azamiyah section of Baghdad in an effort to protect the minority Sunnis from attacks by Shiites living nearby.

The decision drew sharp criticism from residents and Sunni leaders who complained it would isolate their community.

al-Maliki said, "this wall reminds us of other walls," in an apparent reference to the wall that divided the German city of Berlin during the Cold War.

God bless you, Mr. Vonnegut

“

When I think about my own death, I don't console myself with the idea that my descendants and my books and all that will live on. Anybody with any sense knows that the whole solar system will go up like a celluloid collar by-and-by. I honestly believe, though, that we are wrong to think that moments go away, never to be seen again. This moment and every moment lasts forever.

—From 'Reflections on My Own Death,' Kurt Vonnegut, 1972

By MELISSA CARON
Copy Editor



Dear Mr. Vonnegut,

You are up in heaven now.

I know that it is your favorite joke to say that a humanist is up in heaven, and considering the

circumstances, I could think of no better way to open this, the letter to you I started so many times and never could finish.

I heard the news the morning after it happened. I was getting ready for work, and I got a rare text message from my friend Matt. "Farewell Kurt," the message said. "You will be missed."

Matt and I don't talk very often, but when we do, the conversation invariably gets around to either you or Bruce Springsteen. Bruce, because too few people of our generation understand that "Thunder Road" is one of the most beautiful songs ever written. And you, because too many people of our generation picked "Slaughterhouse-Five" or "Cat's Cradle" off a summer reading list and thought they had read enough Vonnegut to make them fans. That's like saying you're a Springsteen fan when you only own his greatest hits.

Or, worse yet, they have read "Slaughterhouse-Five" or "Cat's Cradle" and didn't feel the need to read any more of your work, because what they'd already read was "just all right." Ouch. That hurts me.

When people tell me they've read "Slaughterhouse," and they say

it wasn't as good as I made it out to be, I tell them they have to read it again. And then again. Every time I read it, I like it better. After more than 10 times through, it's become familiar to the point where I can picture exactly where certain passages are on the page. It's become familiar like a friend.

You had become familiar like a friend.

I discovered you by accident. It was one particularly angsty day the summer before I got my driver's license. I was lovesick over some boy, there was nothing on TV, and I'd taken all the quizzes in my Teen magazines. I was desperate for something, anything, to read, and I resigned myself to the retro-looking, brightly colored paperback I'd bypassed so many times before: "Cat's Cradle." According to the penciled-in inscription on the inside cover, a gift to my mother from her brother Harold the Christmas after she married my dad.

I can't remember exactly what I loved about "Cat's Cradle." I had just started in on my social revolutionary phase, so I'm sure the anti-weapon of mass destruction message had something to do with my fascination. But I do remember that there was something in the book that made me feel better. And I remember going to my Uncle Harold's house one day that same summer and bringing "Cat's Cradle" with me, thinking we could talk about it, bond over it, thinking I could thank him for indirectly introducing me to the wonder that was Vonnegut.

What happened instead was that I showed him the book and he flipped through the pages and chuckled, saying, "I used to love this guy," before handing the book back to me.

I have a friend who used to often tell me, "To be 20 and not be radical

is to have no heart. But to be 40 and still be radical is to have no head." Uncle Harold found his head, and I can't fault him for that.

But what about you, who, at 84 years old, had been a prisoner of war in World War II and yet remained a pacifist? Who believed that art was what made life bearable? Who remained a humanist, a believer that we are on earth simply to live and to treat each other with respect without expectation of reward or punishment?

Through the rest of my high school years, I read nothing but your books. I read all of them at least once — many two or three times. Was I obsessed? Oh, absolutely yes. In an advanced writing class I took senior year, it became a running joke to my classmates that if I made a comment, chances were it would begin with "Mr. Vonnegut says ..."

I wrote so many letters to you. After I read "Slaughterhouse," after I read "Bluebeard." I started several after 9/11, and there were others I picked at during weary summers when there was nothing left to read. When I sent you a letter, I wanted it to be art, a piece of writing poignant and funny enough so that even you would notice and perhaps even write back. None of my letters were good enough. I deleted them all.

And then I found other things to read. I organized my collection of your books on a shelf next to my Tim O'Brien, my Arundhati Roy, my Dave Eggers, my Jack Kerouac. I stopped writing letters to you.

Don't get me wrong, I still gasped if someone mentioned your name. Friends, even strangers, unwitting enough to pull out one of your books in my presence would most certainly have to brace themselves for attack. Points of conversation would still make me think of

a piece of Kilgore Trout wisdom, and I would clear my throat and begin, "Mr. Vonnegut says ..."

But my obsession had mellowed into deep respect. I still had the idea that someday I would write you a letter and you would read it ... but only someday. Because today there was work to do, phone calls to make, and when all that was done, I was tired. I waited too long.

And this letter? Absolute crap. It's said so much more about how much I love your work than about why.

"Why" is always harder to explain than "how much." You know:

- I love you so much!
- How much?
- This much! (Arms thrown open wide.)
- Why?
- Uh ...

When people ask me what I love so much about Kurt Vonnegut, what I tell them is this: A reviewer once called your writing "a sweet pill wrapped in bitter coating." I like that, because people who don't know your writing well, who have perhaps read "Cat's Cradle" and "Slaughterhouse" and maybe "Breakfast of Champions" but nothing more, hear your name and say, Oh yeah, Vonnegut, he's so pessimistic.

Maybe.

Probably.

But there was more to you than that. When I read your books, I see the black humorist, the cynical man who saw no hope for humanity's survival so figured we might as well laugh about it.

For a person to feel that hopeless, though, there has to be idealism underneath. A sweet pill. That person's vision of how mankind should be has to be pretty noble, pretty bright, for mankind's actuality to

look so dark in contrast.

In a strange way, your books make me hopeful. Because at 84, you still saw what was wrong with the world, and you cared enough for it to affect you. I hope that when I'm 84, I still have the heart to care that much.

A couple of months ago, a friend who remembered my affinity for you handed me an article about you from the August, 2006 issue of Rolling Stone. I read it and smiled, handing it back to him. "No, you can keep it," he said.

I gasped.

Toward the end, you were quoted as saying, "... I'm 83 and homeless. It was the same way when World War II ended. The Army kept me on because I could type, so I was typing other people's discharges and stuff. And my feeling was 'Please, I've done everything I was supposed to do. Can I go home now?' That's what I feel right now. I've written books. Lots of them. Please, I've done everything I'm supposed to do. Can I go home now?"

And you weren't talking about heaven, because that's not what you believe happens after death. You were weary. To you, death was sleep, and nothing more. Incidentally, I believe that too.

Your life was a success: You were kind to people, you created beautiful art, you spoke the truth. And made people laugh and cry and think about things bigger than themselves. It was time for you to sleep. I only wish I might have had the chance to shake your hand.

Thank you, Mr. Vonnegut, for everything. I hope we will meet someday in a world of peace and freedom if the accident will.

Peace.

Melissa

King on the court, King at the piano

Student profile:
the multi-talented
Elliott King

By ARTEMIS SAVORY
Contributing Reporter

Elliott King is a musically talented 23-year-old who plays piano, sings, and is learning to play the drums and the guitar. The piano is his favorite instrument because he considers it the easiest to play and, as he says, it's all in the chords.

He definitely knows how to use the chords to make the listener really feel the music, and anyone who has heard him at the piano would understand. Having had no music lessons, this excellent music-maker is unable to read notes, meaning that he must learn everything he plays by ear.

He is able to play many songs, such as "Black Parade" by My Chemical Romance, and many Beatles songs. His favorite band of all time is Incubus, although he also listens to a variety of other bands, including Sublime and the Smashing Pumpkins, and "anything that isn't country or butt rock."

At home he is the owner of a drum machine, a key board, a base guitar and a guitar. With the help of his computer, King is able to make his own sounds — his own music.

King grew up in Saugus, Mass., where he lived for 13 years, then lived with his mother and sister in Hollywood, Fla. with their three cats and a trunk of underwear. There they lived four years before he returned to Saugus.

His mother is a nurse and his father a lawyer.

King's other interests consist of basketball, which he says is his pas-

sion. "I'm the best dunker in the school," King says.

He is majoring in psychology because "it applies to everybody."

According to his friend, Anthony Griffin, "Elliott's mad smart, but he doesn't apply himself fully."

Anthony thinks that King would make a good teacher or a basketball coach, while Elie Gomez, another friend, says that Elliott "likes working with people," pointing perhaps to a future career in psychology?

Whether a musical genius, a basketball coach or a psychologist of some sort, Elliott is bound for something great — but this is his last semester at NECC before he hopes to transfer to Leslie College in Cambridge where he plans to play Division 2 or 3 basketball.



Courtesy photo

Psychology major Elliott King has a flair for sports and music.

Arts & Entertainment

Still Point is still on after 33 years



Courtesy photo

NECC dance students Jamie MacDonald (seated), Tracy DiJulia (left) and Rebekah Caron are preparing for this semester's Still Point performance.

Students make final preparations for Still Point performance

BY KELSEY KANE
Contributing Reporter

Despite a few dropped dance courses this year, one thing that hasn't been taken away is the loyalty and passion the NECC dancers have for the annual show: Still Point.

Thirty-three years have gone by with nothing less than beautifully choreographed performances all from different types of dance including jazz, ballet and hip-hop.

With spring now here, it's once again time for the dancers to shine on stage.

Still Point, which received its name from the T.S. Eliot poem "Burnt Norton," is about "People working together to produce something that's entertaining," said Professor Susan Sanders.

Sanders, the new dance adviser, has also done the lighting for Still Point for many years.

Although Sanders won't have time to be the adviser next year, due to a project she will be working on for a new NECC theater, she looks forward to seeing this year's final outcome for Still Point.

In Sanders' eyes, "Still Point is not only an assortment of dance rou-

tines, but rather a graceful reflection of art, history and philosophy which the students show through their movements."

As of now, the dances are finally finished and looking great. With only one more class left to prepare for Still Point, all the dancers can do is wait in anticipation for April 27 and 28. Then it will be their chance to show their fellow students what they've been working so hard for.

Colleen McCabe, a student at NECC working to gain an associate degree in dance, will be performing in Still Point for the third time. McCabe will be in five numbers this year, ranging from hip-hop to ballet.

"I plan on owning my own dance studio one day," says McCabe. Much like dance instructor Karrie Stang, a Still Point 17 alumna, who now owns her own dance studio called Gotta Dance. Stang has had the opportunity to teach the choreography for the show for several years. Her students feel lucky to have the privilege of working with and learning from her.

When attending Dance Club, it is clearly shown that Stang is not only a teacher, but a friend to the students.

Even with the cutbacks the dance program has had to face this year, it doesn't take away from Still Point. The show is still as strong and well preformed as ever, and with each new year comes more beautiful performances and a handful of new dancers ready to give it their all on stage.

Not disturbed by 'Disturbia'

Remake of Hitchcock film shines on silver screen

BY CORI BRODIE
Contributing Reporter

I am not going to lie – the name of the movie, "Disturbia," scared me a little. I am not a big horror buff, but for some reason the commercials made me want to see it.

I made sure to get to the movies early because it was a Saturday night, and we all know how packed the theater can get. It began to get crowded about two minutes before the movie started. It had to be a sign that this was a "must-see" movie.

Up-and-coming star Shia LeBeouf plays Kale, a high school student who gets in trouble in school and is under house arrest for the entire summer break. With not much to do for the summer, he decides to play detective and spy on his neighbors with his binoculars from his room.

Kale discovers a new neighbor who moves in next door, Ashley, played by Sarah Roemer, who was

seen in "The Grudge 2." Let's just say he doesn't notice her for her brain. Most of her scenes were by her pool, very similar to the movie "The Girl Next Door."

The two create a strong bond, but they notice the neighbor next door to Kale acting very suspicious late at night. The only way to find more information is to investigate, and Kale enlists a school colleague, Ronnie, played by Aaron Yoo, who makes the movie very comical.

The movie is a teen version of the 1960s thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock, "Rear Window." The title although, does not quite do justice to the movie.

I sat down at the movies thinking I would be scared out of my wits, but did not leave that way. However, there were parts of the movie that were so intense I had to cover my eyes, but that's just how I am.

Rolling Stones even said about the movie, "Cool stuff. Cool movie." The movie received four out of five stars. In all, I give the movie a thumbs up; it provided surprising comedy and loads of suspense. It makes everyone think, "Who really lives next door to me?"

College community jammin' in the rain

Bad weather doesn't stop annual NECC Spring Jam

BY DANIEL POTOCKI
Trends Editor

This year's Spring Jam was a big success as hoards of students poured into the Sports and Fitness Center, despite the bad weather.

The mood among the students was relaxed and happy.

"It's really been a blast," said Anthony Cataldi, NECC student. "The weather is bad but you can't let it stop you."

The event featured tables from many of the school clubs, including the literary magazine, Parnassus, the Christian Club and the ASL Club. Even UPS, the global shipping company, came out to support NECC.

There was a Nerf target game that briefly saw Maria Hom, staff member on the student success team, in first place.

Also at the event were two different photo opportunities, one being a beach scene and the other a depiction of the world's strongest man.

Students could make spin-art



Daniel Potocki photo

Students enjoy the festivities in the Sports and Fitness Center for NECC's Spring Jam.

Frisbees and challenge members of the chess club to a game.

And of course there was food, all sorts – cotton candy, and great barbecue. And like many events at NECC it

was free to students.

The staff and student volunteers were very happy that the turnout was so good.

Arts & Entertainment

Lack of display space can't stop arts

Art department to
hold student
art show

BY JASMIN PASTRANA
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Although they suffered a loss this semester with the removal of display space, the art department will be holding an "Exitshow" from April 30 to May 4 in the NECC library.

I think it's wonderful! I'm so excited that they put the show together. I've never had anything shown before," said Elizabeth Patterson, graphic design and visual arts student at NECC.

The Exitshow is an art show displaying works from NECC students enrolled in the Visual Arts and Graphic Design program. The students involved in the art show are

We decided to go with the Exitshow, especially because it's a limited space.

— Prof. Lindsay McCulloch

graduating this semester, transferring to another school or are leaving the school after this year.

"It's a great chance for them to have an art show to put on their resumes," said Professor Lindsay McCulloch, visual arts coordinator.

Originally, the art department planned on holding a juried art show this spring that would be open to all NECC students. However, since the student artwork displayed on the third floor of the Spurk Building was taken down as a result of a violation with the state fire code, the Art department has strug-

gled to find space to display the work of their students.

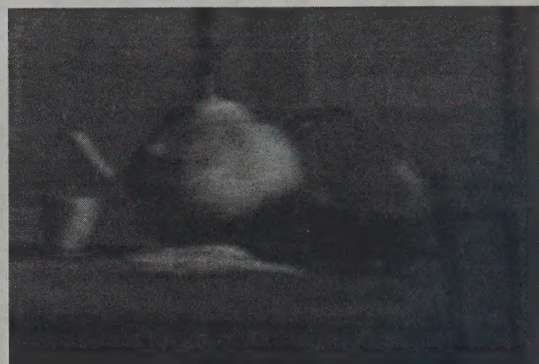
"We decided to go with the Exitshow, especially because it's a limited space," said McCulloch. "The library is sort of our best option."

According to McCulloch, the art department has applied for funding to enclose the art displays in the Spurk Building with fireproof glass, but have not yet received a response from the Department of Institutional Advancement.

On the last day of the Exitshow, the art department will hold a clos-

ing reception. Students will have the opportunity to invite their friends and family to view their work. Refreshments will be provided for viewers and artists, and contact information for the artists will be available for those who are interested in purchasing student artwork.

"It's a great chance for people to support the artist if they like what



Courtesy photo

Artwork such as "Crispus Attackus' Teapot" by Elizabeth Patterson will be displayed at the Exitshow.

they see," said McCulloch.

The Exitshow will be held in the conference room of the NECC Library and will be open during regular library hours. For more information, contact Lindsay McCulloch at LMcCulloch@necc.mass.edu.

'Halloween' to be recreated by Rob Zombie

BY AARON FOSS
Contributing Reporter

As a fan of cinema in general, I've been extremely let down with the quality of films over the past few years.

Hollywood puts out film after film that makes me wish a shoehorn were provided with my ticket for easy removal of my eyes halfway through the show. The independent film scene has tried to maintain its popularity by becoming the Hollywood alternative, but this has only led to films that become too preachy or look like they are filmed by a high school AV club.

Horror films are found on both sides.

A guilty pleasure of mine, I have always enjoyed the gore and camp of slasher films and the suspense of the horror thriller. These films always keep me entertained.

Why?

Well, to understand the mind of a horror fan you have to understand one thing: We are entertained by the great horror films, but we know that 50 percent of them are just awful, awful movies. We hold classic horror films like "The Exorcist," "Rosemary's Baby" and "Halloween" to the same standards as a normal film fan holds "Citizen Kane" and "The Godfather." These films are simply the best the genre has ever produced.

The horror film has truly sunk to all-time lows over the past few years. A severe lack of interest in the genre at the turn of the millennium put many projects on hold in Hollywood after several films failed to find a marketable audience.

In 2003, the excellent and campy " Freddy vs. Jason " became the first horror movie in a long while to be considered both a financial success, as well as a movie loved by horror fans.

Hollywood puts out film after film that makes me wish a shoehorn were provided with my ticket for easy removal of my eyes halfway through the show.

This is when the horror film really began to make its "return," if you can call it that.

Hollywood saw the horror film as a viable financial option again and this is where the downfall truly began.

Rob Zombie and Eli Roth quickly became two of the top names in the horror genre, though a five-minute viewing of any of their films will leave any true horror fan wondering why.

Zombie and Roth apparently both wanted to undertake destroying the horror genre. Zombie's "House of 1000 Corpses" and "The Devil's Rejects" and Roth's "Hostel" portrayed ultra-violence to a whole new level.

They bordered more on snuff films than horror, but unfortunately, the mindless movie patrons of America ate it up and they, along with the "Saw" series, all became huge successes.

These films were all nothing short of awful and are universally renounced as such by most horror fans. We craved the suspenseful yarns of Hitchcock, and the only thing cerebral about these films was that you would more than likely see someone's brain. If you're asking how a horror movie can be too bloody and have too little plot, well, honestly most of them can't. However, Hitchcock and John Carpenter have showed us that a horror movie can be frightening with little gore and characters we care about.

The newer trend began soon

after of the horror remake. Horror remakes were a rare thing before 2003, the only notable ones being "Night of the Living Dead" in 1992 and Gus Van Sant's remake of "Psycho" in 1998. Critics and horror fans alike denounced both of these films.

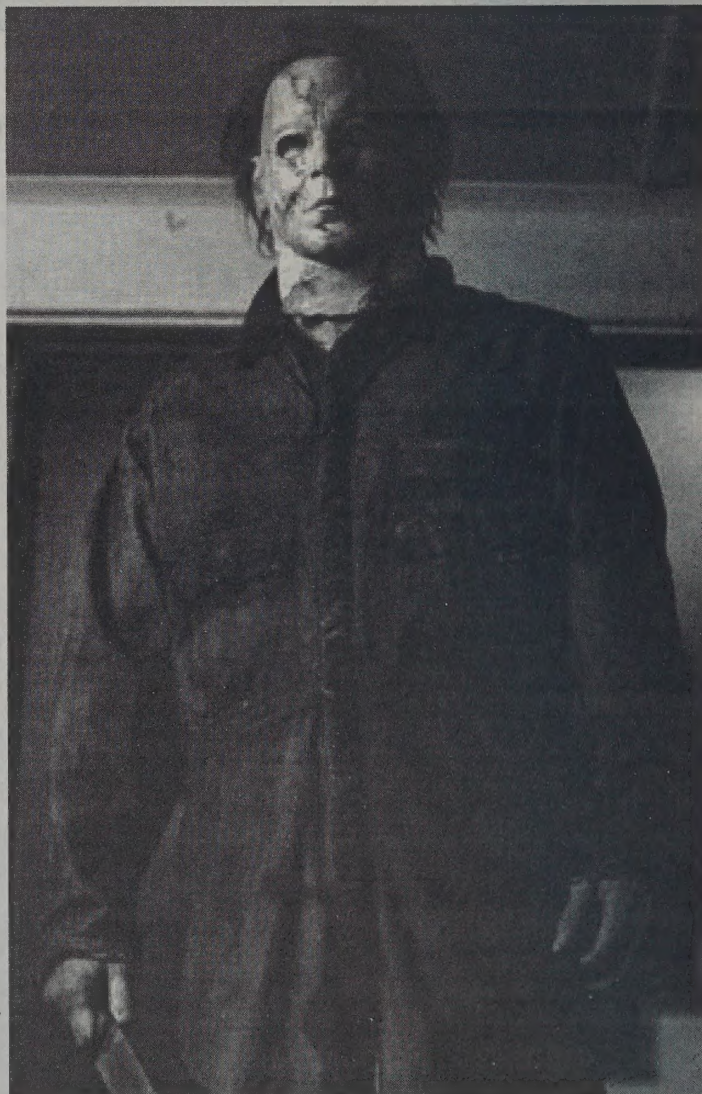
In 2003, a remake of the gritty, low-budget classic "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" was released, complete with no grit and a huge budget. Again, in the eyes of a horror fan this is the equivalent of remaking "Gone with the Wind" and while fans denounced it, it made lots of money.

Over the next two years, horror fans would protest and denounce the horror remakes that seemed to come one after the other in a rapid succession of steaming piles of cinematic crap.

Classics such as "The Fog," "Black Christmas," "House of Wax," "When a Stranger Calls," "The Hills Have Eyes," "The Hitcher" and "Wicker Man" were all remade for a new audience, and all of them were awful. In the macabre sense of watching a car accident unfold, I watched these movies once they arrived on DVD as I refused to pay good money to see a movie I knew would be terrible. One by one, they disappointed me, and when I thought it couldn't get any worse, I found out about the remake of "Halloween."

Not just that, but the directorial reigns had been handed to the completely untalented Rob Zombie.

The Halloween remake is being



Courtesy photo

seen as the final blow to the horror genre by most of its fans. Mike Myers does not need to be "reinvented," as they blatantly say in the movie's trailer. The horror film for the true horror fan is a thing of the past until the genre is given new life.

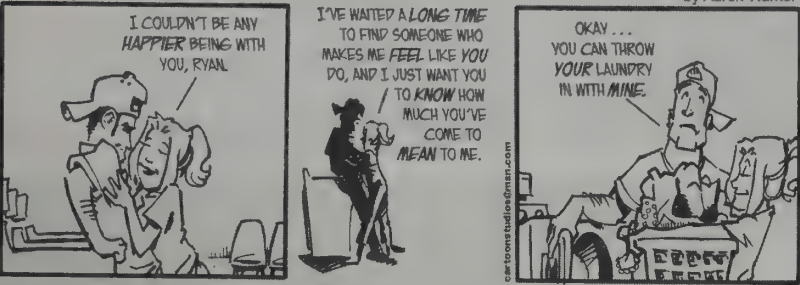
Remakes by untalented directors are not the way to do it and neither is gore-for-the-sake-of-

gore films. The industry as a whole should take a look at what made the classic horror films of the past classic; plot twists, camp and just enough gore at just the right times.

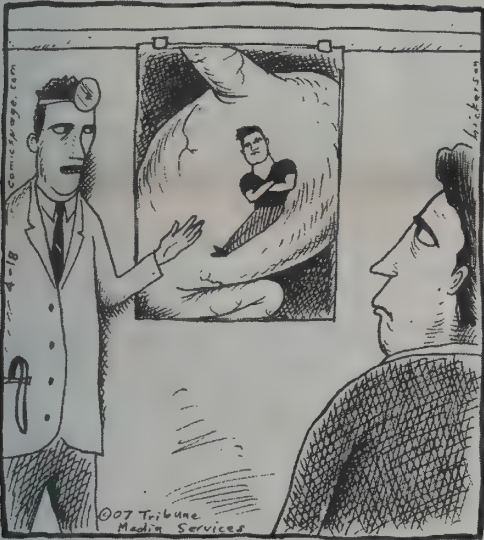
Maybe, if enough people read this article, it will be reprinted five years from now, by a different author in a different font, but as always, nothing beats the original.

Arts & Entertainment

A College Girl Named Joe



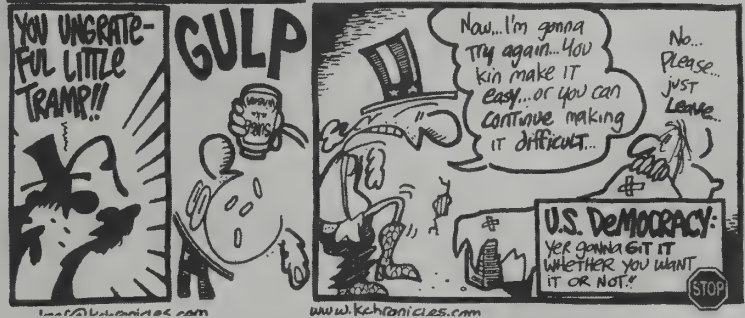
Welcome to Falling Rock National Park by Josh Shalek



"This is probably what's been irritating your stomach. At some point, you must have swallowed a miniature Simon Cowell."



"Sheesh! I gotta start groomin' myself better. I found THIS in my belly button."



Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Certifies under oath
 - 8 Ten-sided polygon
 - 15 Forward progress
 - 16 Like acid rain
 - 17 EST word
 - 18 Gets there
 - 19 Jan. honoree
 - 20 John's last name?
 - 21 Agree
 - 22 Harden
 - 23 Painful
 - 24 Diets religiously?
 - 27 ___ Antonio, TX
 - 28 Abrasive tools
 - 33 One with regrets
 - 34 D.C. VIP
 - 35 Beset
 - 36 Writer Ferber
 - 37 Support-line employees
 - 39 Deuce plus one
 - 40 Mickey Mouse channel
 - 42 Strike lightly
 - 43 Quickness contest
 - 44 Kernels
 - 45 Glitch
 - 46 Intense beam
 - 47 Mine vehicle
 - 49 Pronounce
 - 50 Skirmishes
 - 54 Made a lap
 - 55 Big name in e-mail
 - 58 Like a vacuum
 - 59 Insect's feeler
 - 61 Pensioner
 - 62 More severe
 - 63 African flies
 - 64 Gain control over

- DOWN
- 1 Attention getter
 - 2 River duck
 - 3 Job to do
 - 4 Bangor's summer hrs.
 - 5 Borg and Bergman
 - 6 Seer's deck
 - 7 "Auld Lang ___"
 - 8 Pastor's assistant

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4/28/07

Solutions

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- 48 View a movie twice
- 49 ___ Claus
- 50 Golfer's vehicle
- 51 Deliberate misstatements
- 52 Comic Johnson
- 53 Narrow cut
- 54 Curtain holder
- 55 Comic Meara
- 56 Singletons
- 57 "I Remember Mama" character
- 60 Sea eagle

'I would never have made it without community college'

*A frank discussion
with NECC professor
David Johnedis*

BY DANIEL A. POTOCKI
Trends Editor

When I started this interview it was going to be a simple, cut and dry, no-frills look at different teaching styles. I picked an instructor I liked, and figured I'd turn the piece into filler. Over the course of the interview with Professor David Johnedis, that quickly became more of a two-way conversation, I learned more about the character of my being than I have in any one moment of my life. This piece may come off fluffy, or seem cliché and sappy, but as a reporter I can only tell the truth of my experience. To tell anything less would be an injustice to one of the single most catalytic moments of my life. So, with the best detail possible, I will attempt to reconstruct the events of that day.

I had just finished my coverage of the Spring Jam, and I was tired, and more than a bit waterlogged from all the walking in the rain. I was to meet David at noon, and I was running a few minutes early, but I made the climb up to the third floor and sat in the waiting area. Honestly, I simply wanted to bang this interview out, and hopefully type up the notes before my last class. Don't get me wrong, David (he insisted on the use of his first name) is a great teacher and a charismatic speaker, but I was tired.

He arrived early and we stepped into a whitewashed broom closet of an office for some privacy before beginning the interview.

So I took out my small voice recorder, set it up, and in my best interview voice asked about the marked difference between the structured classes in high school, with homework every night, to the far more informal system of learning in his class.

"I was a student at some point, at a community college," he said. There was a pause, and I could see him quickly run his educational history through his mind's eye. On his face I could see a grimace that slowly turned into a smile, which would be an interesting way of describing his school years.

He then continued, "I know that students can get inhibited when they get into that structured situation that doesn't allow for creativity or a deeper level of thinking. So I'm not interested in getting students to memorize a textbook or a bunch of vocabulary terms, because that will all evaporate as soon as students walk out the door. I'm interested in helping students learn how to learn. If we happen to discuss sociology that's fine. My primary goal is that students learn how to learn, and learn how to think analytically. The system society has set in place now does not encourage creativity from the very beginning. The individual is not valued from the beginning. Students are focused more on getting in and getting out and are not concerned with analytical thinking. That's what our school system has done."

This conversation was beginning to surprise me, as it hit close to



Daniel Potocki photo

Sociology professor David Johnedis hands back papers to his students. "Allowing students to believe that goals much higher than they think are attainable is the roll of the community college in my mind," he says.

home. I thought back to high school, and how I didn't feel like I mattered in that environment. Most of the teachers never engaged the class so much as spoke to a wall of mannequins before asking them to parrot back what they heard. At this point I felt like I needed to address something that had been nagging at me for a long time. I come from a fairly affluent community, and my high school was geared toward getting people into Ivy League schools. When it was clear that I was not heading to an Ivy League school, my counselors abandoned me. When I said that I might go to a community college I was strongly discouraged. So I posed the whole thing to David.

"Now some would say that perhaps since this is a community college that 'get in, get out' mentality is just par for the course. How would you respond to something like that?" I asked.

It was at this point that I could see I had hit a sore spot – a nerve. I knew then that this was going to be far more than filler.

"It has nothing to do with this being a community college, absolutely nothing. Everyone has ideas, and the instructor here has an obligation to find a way to allow those ideas to flourish. I think that what happens often, because that process is extremely difficult, it just doesn't take place. It's extremely difficult for instructors to cultivate a creative environment for students, where students can explore ideas."

"The fundamental problem with community colleges is self-esteem, and it's not just the students, the instructors, the faculty – I think everyone suffers from feelings of inferiority. Shifting that attitude and allowing students to believe that

goals much higher than they think are attainable is the role of the community college in my mind. Institutionally there is a self-esteem issue.

"At the same time you have to be really careful because everyone deals with it differently – some instructors feed off of it and feel rock solid about the good work they are doing, and they do amazing things here. Others unfortunately suffer through every day, and some simply accept that as the way things are, which is the real tragedy. It disgusts me when instructors, or administrators, let themselves settle for second-class citizenship for students."

"We have a responsibility to expand students' horizons. That's what our business is. If you come in here wanting to be a medical assistant, my job is to say, Why can't you be a doctor? and if medical assistant is where they want to be, then it's my job – it's all of our job, as students, teachers, and faculty – to help them get there, but personally I still want that student to consider what it is to be a doctor. I want that student to make an informed decision as to why they shouldn't be a doctor. Some people either aren't in a position to, or don't want to expand on themselves, but if I don't make a huge effort to help them change, then I am absolutely not doing my job."

"To me this is really exciting, from my own experience when I was in community college, everyone told me I was a screw-up because I was in community college when I was 24. What it did was it gave me the opportunity to see all these options that I didn't know existed," he concluded.

My mind was blown; it all felt so true. Finally someone had put into words the undercurrent that had been flowing in my mind. Then to build upon that to make a hopeful message, I was stunned. I was also intrigued by the idea that he had once been in a place like me; as it turns out, it was much darker.

"Now can we talk about how you yourself got to community college?" I asked. I could see him thinking then with a sigh, he began.

"Sure, I was an alcoholic in high school, and I screwed around. When I got out of high school I had a million stupid jobs, and before I knew it my girlfriend was pregnant. At the time of my son's birth I was working at a fast-food restaurant, and I saw on the hospital documents it said, 'Father's occupation: cashier.' That was the point I realized I had to pull my s*** together."

"From then on I made a decision that I was going to get into the best liberal arts college in the United States, so I held a 4.0, I was president of the student body, I had a very close relationship with the president of the college – this was over at Middlesex Community College. I applied to one school, Amherst College, and I got in. I felt like community college was a place where I could try out stuff."

"When I graduated high school, I only graduated because my father knew the principal – I shouldn't have graduated. On commencement day, when I was marching up to get my diploma, my senior year English teacher yelled out, 'You don't deserve this, Mister.' That stuck with me."

"I was always kind of a smart guy, but as a smart guy, and a gay guy, I had no support in high school,

in community college I got that support. People allowed me to be myself, and fueled my passion as a student. It all comes back to the self-esteem thing we talked about earlier. I had to take two years to rebuild myself, then I went on to what I consider to be the best liberal arts school in the country: Amherst College. I would never have made it without community college. Now I have three master's degrees," he said.

To finish, I asked him if he had any final comments about his job and about schools.

"I do it (teach at a community college) because I want to be in a position to help students like I was helped. When I encourage a student, I'm not doing it so that they will do a little bit better in my class; I'm doing it to change their life. I'm in a position to change people's lives. It's really easy for me to come to work every day. I love it, and I hate the days when I can't be here. That might sound really arrogant, but I see it happening when students go on to great schools and great things. My silly class, my stupid swearing, everything I do in my class I do to try and get people to rise above what they think they can be," he said with a smile.

I sat back. I had nothing to add to this. My thoughts and my feelings had been so rocked that day, for the first time in a long time, I felt like there was opportunity around me. So I asked him, if he could only say one thing to a student, what would he say. There was a long pause, and then finally he looked me straight in the eye.

He said, "Take your dreams and expand them 100 times, then that should be your starting goal."

Horoscopes



Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 20) Clearly express your doubts or observations this week. Over the next few days, loved ones may rely on outdated patterns or refuse to learn from past mistakes. Don't be drawn into a game of emotional silence: this is not the right time to avoid strong emotions or ignore social differences. After mid-week, business demands will increase. Some Aries natives may experience powerful career ambitions or the return of a forgotten work project. Stay strong: basis ideas are changing.



Taurus

TAURUS (April 21-May 20) Authority figures will now appreciate your ability to resolve group disagreements: after Tuesday, watch for rare and valuable ways to improve teamwork. A close colleague may soon abandon sensitive assignments: if so, remain philosophic and offer creative suggestions. Wednesday through Saturday, a friend or co-worker may announce unexpected feelings of romance or sensuality. Remain cautious: private attractions, although deeply felt, will soon fade. Go slow.



Gemini

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) A friend, lover or close colleague may now reveal past emotional blunders. Take all in stride: at present, mistaken attractions, bold romantic promises and changing friendships will prove gently amusing. Tuesday through Friday, a rare business alliance will bring a surprising financial opportunity. Action will be required: refuse to be ignored and

study contracts for obvious clues. Later this week, spend time with a tired or doubtful relative: someone close may need guidance.



Cancer

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Early this week, many Cancerians will begin a brief but intense period of social expansion and renewed physical vitality. After Tuesday, watch for past misgivings or unresolved romantic questions to fade. Sincere discussions will be expected: remain dedicated to honesty between friends and all will work to your advantage. Thursday through Sunday, a past business partner or relative may require delicate financial or business advice. Stay alert: privacy will be key concern.



Leo

LEO (July 22-Aug. 22) Small debts, returned documents or shortened time schedules may be temporarily problematic this week. If so, expect authority figures to be indecisive or avoid direct questions. Rely on group involvement, if possible: shared duties will soon trigger valuable alliances and improve workplace relations. After Wednesday, may Leos will be asked to plan an important social event for a lover or family member. Sensitivity will prove vital to success: avoid excess humor or bold speculation.



Virgo

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Co-workers may this week publicly doubt their own abilities or evaluate their past career choices. Let others set the pace: in all business matters solitary reflection is now highly productive.

After mid-week, a new friend or colleague may wish to explore deeper social or romantic commitments. Private fears may, however, linger; offer encouragement. Later this week, family relationships will require patience; expect friends or relatives to challenge new ideas or request special favors.



Libra

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Romantic partners and trusted friends may this week adopt a new attitude concerning group events and past emotional obligations. Long-standing disagreements or personality clashes may be a key theme; remain balanced and wait for change. After Wednesday, business contracts or difficult team assignments may require careful negotiations. Listen to the needs of all involved: consensus will bring success. After Saturday, avoid overspending: resources may be strained.



Scorpio

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Colleagues may now be unable or unwilling to complete their regular assignments: after Monday, expect increasing workloads and unreliable instructions from bosses or managers. Others will rely heavily on your emotional insight and leadership abilities; use this time to prove your skills to authority figures. Tuesday through Friday, a trusted friend may reveal an unusual romantic attraction or rare private invitation. Wait for added information: social attitudes will soon evolve.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Romantic seduction is accented

over the next few days; after Monday, pay special attention to unique home proposals or fast invitations. Some Sagittarians will now move a key relationship toward a new level of trust. If so, expect compelling passions and intense emotional decisions in the coming weeks. Thursday through Saturday, check financial paperwork for minor errors or costly omissions. Hidden mistakes may soon trigger a need for lengthy negotiations: stay open.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Home relationships may this week be strained by unusual emotional triangles. Over the next six days, watch for loved ones to be temperamental or easily irritated by last minute social changes. Little of this can be avoided: remain focused, however, on key decisions and shared family goals and all will be well. Thursday through Sunday, a rare business partnership may trigger a need for extra funding. Applications or financial requests will soon provide new pathways: get busy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Postponed business or financial projects will now enter an active phase: after Tuesday, watch for sudden proposals and unique workplace messages. Potential colleagues may soon clarify past mistakes or disappointments; remain open to unusual ideas and surprising explanations. After Wednesday, new friendships are highly favored. Use this time to

search out creative outlets or new hobbies. Leisure activities will soon bring closure to past social disappointments.



Pisces

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Unique financial partnerships and new sources of income may this week inspire complex business ideas or revised career plans. Before mid-week, watch for surprising opportunities in management, research, public relations or administration. Self-doubt and workplace disinterest will soon fade; respond quickly to renewed options and expect rapid, undeniable returns. Later this week, an isolated or distant friend may reveal an unusual social or family problem. Ask for details.

If your birthday is this week: Lost career opportunities or past financial restrictions will soon be forgotten. Before mid-May, watch for positive business options, new promotions or promising money ventures to arrive. Over the next few months, workplace progress will be steadily rewarding. Use this time to foster new alliances and press key officials for private or lost information. Early in August, romantic discussions or family relations may be mildly stressful. Throughout last summer and early fall emotional boundaries, shared goals and daily expectations will need to be firmly addressed. Refuse to ignore minor comments or subtle changes between loved ones and all will be well. Pace yourself and expect powerful family decisions by mid-February.

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Sports

Red Sox sweep Yankees at Fenway

*Boston out-pitches
New York and takes
all three games*

BY JOE TERLIKOSKY
Sports Editor

Over the weekend the Boston Red Sox completed a three-game sweep of the New York Yankees at Fenway Park. The answer was pitching for the Sox as they prevailed over their rivals. The big three – Schilling, Beckett and Matsuzaka – clearly overmatched the Yanks' injury-riddled pitching staff. Andy Pettitte was the only proven starter to pitch, and his start was blown by the bullpen.

In the first game the Yankees jumped out to a 6-2 lead, getting to Curt Schilling early. Then in the eighth they had the best closer in baseball on the mound to close the door but he failed, giving up big hits to Coco Crisp and Jason Varitek to relinquish the lead to the Sox.

Despite another great day from A-Rod, who belted two dingers in the game, the Yanks couldn't hold the lead, leaving pitches up for Sox hitters to crush. Ultimately it led to a Sox win 7-6 and a pumped Red Sox Nation.

In Game 2 both teams' bats were alive as Beckett and Karstens each gave up four runs in the first two innings. Once the pitching settled for the Sox, Karstens couldn't hold his own for the Yanks as Big Papi connected for three big hits against him including a three run homer that made the game 7-4.

A-Rod continued to play well but the rest of the Yankees struggled to hit well with injured players Johnny

Damon, Jorge Posada and Hideki Matsui all out of the lineup.

In the final game of the series, and the most anticipated, Dice-K took the mound against Jamie Wright who was pitching just his second game in the bigs. New York went up early 3-0 in the first couple innings but, again, their pitching hurt them. Dice-K had a rough start but was comfortable enough to hit A-Rod in the first inning and Jeter later in the game to get the fans going.

Wright, on the other hand, ran into trouble in the third when the Sox hit four consecutive home runs. Manny, Drew, Lowell and Varitek all came through and made history for the franchise. "I tried to stay calm and cool. I was just thinking attack the next hitter," said Wright. Apparently that strategy wasn't useful for the lefty, as he only lasted 5 innings.

However, Dice-K's line wasn't much better, as he gave up six runs in seven innings. "There's no way I can be satisfied. What I wanted most was to hold the lead and I couldn't do that," he said.

Lowell, who already had one home run, hit another later in the game off Scot Proctor to seal the win. "It shows that we are a good team, but I don't think it means anything for the next 5 months," Lowell said.

Now the Sox enjoy a four-game lead over their hated rivals as we look at the end of April. Boston's pitching proved far superior to New York's and right now it appears they have something that the Yankees don't.

This leaves Joe Torre and his ball club flooded with questions of, not just starting pitching, but the bullpen as well. Proctor failed on Sunday, and Rivera still has no saves, being 0-2 in the situation so far this year.

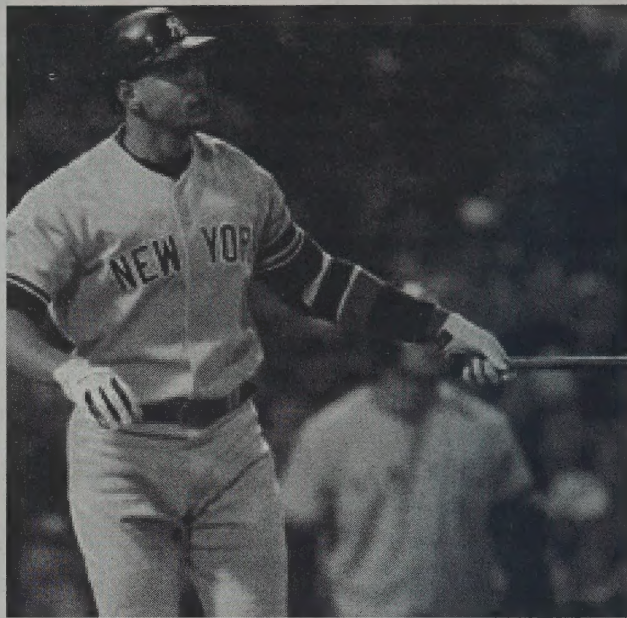
Next weekend these two teams will

meet again this time in the Bronx. Matsuzaka will be on the mound again Friday, and he will look to pitch better than his last performance. The Yankees, however, will just try to get healthier with the possible return of their Japanese star Hideki Matsui, and maybe even some pitching.

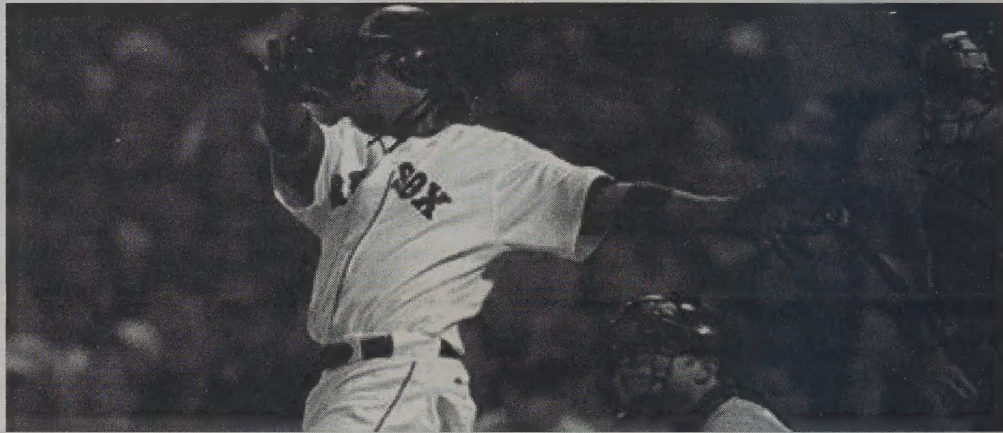
So as the Red Sox fans begin to get excited they should remember one thing: It's April. And if they want another perspective they can ask the Captain of the Yankees Derek Jeter: "We've got 147 games left," he reminds us.

It's going to be a long season.

**Right: A-Rod connects
for another home run.
Below: Manny hits the
first of four consecutive
home runs for Boston.**



Getty Images photo



AP Photo

Knights track shows its talent

*Caputo is proud of her
team so far this year*

BY JOE TERLIKOSKY
Sports Editor

The Northern Essex Community College track team has been showing its immense talent lately. Of course nobody could be prouder than Dawn Caputo, the Knights' coach who has been doing a great job. The team has really been doing well, especially Sean Dolan and Laura Rudd.

Dolan graduated from Stowemont (Vt.) High School six years ago, where he last threw the javelin. Now he is back and throwing as well as he ever has. In fact, he has already qualified for Nationals. Caputo sings praise of how hard he works and how great it is for him, to come back and start doing something he did so long ago.

In his last few meets he has thrown well with throws of 126-1, 136-9 and 147-3 respectively, finishing 11th, sixth and eighth in the events.

Another standout is last year's All-American Laura Rudd who holds school records in the 1,500 with 5:35, and in the 5,000 with a 20:39. Caputo admires Rudd's strong work ethic. "She trains all year long, and never takes a day off," she said. "It's amazing how far she has come in the year and a half I have been coaching

her."

Obviously Rudd's work has paid off and she looks forward to another great performance at the District and Nationals which she has also qualified for.

The bottom line is that Dawn Caputo has been great for this track team. This is only its second year in existence, and they have been competing well against schools that have more resources to run and improve.

This Division 3 program NECC creates has been great for anyone looking to get back into sports. Caputo wants anybody who wants to to come out. No matter your talent, she will spend time with you and get to know you.

"This is a launching pad to the sport for old members and people who wish to go on to four-year schools," said Caputo. "Some of these men and women will compete at another school while others will just fill a last dream to try something one last time."

Caputo really feels she has a great group of athletes on her hands. "They work hard to improve on whatever they need and I feel blessed with the commitments from the athletes," she said. "This is a close-knit group of kids that I enjoy working with when I can."

Most of these men and women have been practicing since January. So they have had eight to 12 weeks of preparation before their first meet. Others have taken years off and have not even trained or had any experience in the sport.

Upcoming games for Boston Red Sox

Monday April 22 – At Fenway Park 7:05 p.m.

Tuesday April 23 – At Fenway Park 7:05 p.m.

Wednesday April 24 – At Fenway Park 7:05 p.m.

Thursday April 25 – At Fenway Park 7:05 p.m.

Friday April 27 – At Yankee Stadium 7:05 p.m.

Saturday April 28 – At Yankee Stadium 3:55 p.m.

Sunday April 29 – At Yankee Stadium 1:05 p.m.

Sports

NBA Playoffs begin

The Warriors and Nugetts complete upsets in Game 1

By **JOE TERLIKOSKY**
Sports Editor

The two and a half month marathon that is the NBA Playoffs kicked off Saturday. The teams came out hungry and ready to play defense and play hard for once. This seems to be the reason why fans have chosen not to watch their favorite teams in the regular season, and wait until the playoffs to show up and root for them. This year we had two top seeds fall to inferior teams in the opening games. The two top Texas teams – Dallas and San Antonio – dropped their openers leaving fans and analysts shocked and wondering who the favorite is this year. In the Dallas game against the Golden State the Warriors used a smaller team to match up against Dallas star Dirk Nowitzki, and it

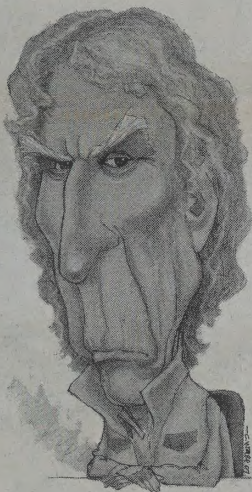
paid off with a 97-85 win. Former Dallas coach Don Nelson, who now coaches the Warriors, must have known a lot about his former team. His defensive schemes worked, and this shows just how much he may have known about the team he knows so well. Baron Davis lit it up for his team pouring in 33 points, 14 rebounds, and 8 assists. A near triple-double! “It was a super win for our team. It was unexpected, and that’s what makes it that much better,” said Don Nelson. On the other hand, owner Mark Cuban and head coach Avery Johnson appeared stunned on the Dallas side. Their stars were just completely shut down. Nowitzki had just 14 points, and all of Dallas knows they will need more from him if they are to win this series and move on. “Obviously the pressure is on all the way,” said Dirk. This is definitely a game the Mavericks have to leave behind them and not let linger any longer. I doubt we will see two bad games in a row for Dirk. On the other side of Texas, San Antonio took the floor and fell to the

Denver Nuggets. Tim Duncan struggled with the rest of his team in a 95-89 loss. For Denver, Allen Iverson and Carmelo Anthony flourished, scoring 31 and 30 points respectively. When you have two stars like these guys on one team and they go off the way they did, it’s going to be tough to beat. Just ask Duncan, Ginobili and Parker – the big three who were clearly not up to par for the game. “We really wanted to take this one at home and we didn’t,” Ginobili said. As for the Nuggets, Melo looks more confident in his team as oppose to past years. “Two years ago we probably were just happy to be in the playoffs. Now we ain’t just happy to be here – we know we have a good team and we can play with the best of them,” Melo said. So now that the playoffs have started and the teams are settling in, we get to look forward to June when this thing finally ends. Now the NBA Finals looks like its miles away. I got no predictions for you here, though. Based on the first set of games, picking a winner looks tough.

Imus saga keeps spinning

By **BOB RAISSMAN**
New York Daily News (MCT)

Enough already. By the end of this week the hope is the media air will be sucked out of the saga of Don Imus. If the story is pancake flat even sooner, like tomorrow, no beef here. The lines are drying up. So are the angles, including: Who are the hypocrites? Why not go after the rappers. Blame everything on Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton. Blah, blah, blah, blah. Here’s another angle to ponder before this story goes away. Today, no matter what you think of him or whether he should have been fired, Imus is bigger than ever. Isn’t that the I-Man on the covers of Time and Newsweek? Considering his ratings had been declining, despite the fact his audience was heavy with powerbrokers, both political and media, this is no small accomplishment. Of course Imus paid for this elevated status with his job and a public whipping. While Imus told Newsweek, via e-mail, he’s going to chill for a while, his forced hiatus won’t last much past the beginning of 2008. While there has been speculation about a comeback on satellite radio, the pathetic state of terrestrial radio suggests there are more than a few desperate suits, looking to increase the bottom line and make a splash, who will be waving a contract under Imus’ nose after the coals of controversy freeze. Despite any forthcoming denials, it would be no surprise, although unlikely, if the suitors included the executives at CBS, WFAN’s parent company. Yes, this is the same crew that fired Imus when, after operating on an eight-day delay, it finally became outraged over his racist/sexist comments concerning the Rutgers women’s basketball team. After six or seven months go by, and it either realizes it can’t find a suitable successor, or it’s already stuck with a lemon (that’s what hap-



MCT photo

pened when David Lee Roth was installed as Howard Stern’s replacement), Imus’ return to WFAN might start looking good to CBS brass. “We would hope someone would come to their senses and Don would come back in a couple of weeks,” Mike Francesa said Monday as he opened FAN’s morning drive-time show with Chris (Mad Dog) Russo. “We’re not saying that’s going to happen. We would hope something like that would happen.” Considering how FranDog’s morning show debut went down, there might be some other powerful media mouths, and politicians, who would like to see Imus back sooner than later. Picking up where they left off at the end of last week, FranDog waxed some of Imus’ A-list guests who, according to the boys, did not engage in a proper show of support for FAN’s former morning drive-time host. NBC’s Tim Russert and CBS’ Mike Wallace took big heat. Russo anointed Russert “No. 1” on the list. He referred to the host of “Meet the Press” as the “biggest phony.” “And if I ever hear one more thing about that dopey old man of his ... I’m not interested in Big Jake or whatever his name is (it’s actual-

ly Big Russ).” Francesa: “Leave (Russert’s father) alone. It’s not his fault his kid doesn’t have any guts.” FranDog moved to Wallace. They said “60 Minutes” had “piled on” by reprising a decade-old Imus profile Sunday night – with Wallace, as Francesa charged, inferring “we knew then” what Imus was about. “If he was so awful, how were you on the show 100 times in the last 10 years?” Francesa asked. “And when you hit a guy with a meatloaf on the East Side, who defended you? Don did.” “Mike (Wallace), it’s time to get in the golf cart, play nine holes, get the Early Bird special, and hit the sack,” Russo said. “... It’s time for Mike to say adios. I can’t take it anymore.” Once again, FranDog ripped into CBS and NBC suits for their “inept” handling of the situation. Francesa described life after Imus for MSNBC, NBC’s cable arm. “MSNBC had ratings last week. Now you can turn off the transmitter. No one watched it before Don. No one will watch it after Don,” Francesa said. “I could step out in the rain and reach more people than (Keith) Olbermann (who has a show on MSNBC).” While FranDog’s verbal jolly-stomping did not raise the level of discourse, or civility, on the airwaves (wasn’t that the goal, the lesson learned, from this Imus fiasco?) it probably kept listeners, including the lineup of affiliates, tuned in. On the first Monday without Imus, the audience was still jonesing for him. See, when Russo started talking about how weather has wreaked havoc with baseball’s early season schedule, the sound you heard was that of radios, all over the country, being turned off. And yet, the Imus rap is getting tired. So is the Russert bashing. FranDog now has WFAN to themselves. For the next two weeks, they should find something else to talk about, or debate, in the morning. Get over Imus.

Weekly Sports Trivia QUESTIONS:

1. When was the last time the Red Sox swept the Yankees at Fenway Park?
2. Who was the last team to have four straight home runs?
3. Who was the team to retire Jackie Robinson’s number?
4. When did Japanese star Hideki Matsui start playing for the Yankees?
5. What is the record for most home runs in the month of April?

- ANSWERS:
1. 1990
 2. Los Angeles Dodgers in 2006.
 3. The New York Yankees
 4. 2003
 5. 14 by Albert Pujols

Spring has finally come to campus



Jay Ryan (left), Leah Gibley and Chris Fanaras relax for a moment between classes and enjoy the beginning of spring.



Even the Little Sprouts are elated by the sun as they run around the grass chasing balls and one another.



Monday's weather was perfect for a game of touch football on the grass outside of the Sports and Fitness Center. Terry "The Myth" Ballard, MVP of the game, shows off his skills as he makes an interception for the red team (above). Carlos Olivera tosses the ball around while giving his team a pep talk in hopes of recovering the lead from the red team (right). The red and yellow teams collide in a desperate attempt for control of the ball at the end of the game (top right). In the end, everyone had some fun in the sun but it was the red team that came out shining with a win over the yellow team.



Left to right: Daynery Ortiz, Alba Morales, Steffany Morillo and Angela Tejada try to make studying a bit more bearable by gathering outside.



Nikki Caunter (left) and Courtney Lessieur take a break between classes to catch up with each other on a bench outside the Sports and Fitness Center.

